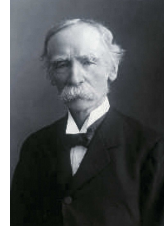


The memoirs of Algernon Sidney Bicknell at The Keep (East Sussex archives)

Transcripts by Valerie Browne Lester¹ and Marcus Bicknell², 20th Dec 2015

Introductory notes

We are pleased to inform researchers and others that we have been made aware of a significant archive created by Algernon Sidney Bicknell (1832-1911) of Barcombe House, near Lewes.



These papers of Algernon Sidney Bicknell are deposited at the East Sussex Record Office at The Keep, Brighton under the reference ACC 8490. The core of the archive is two hand-written bound volumes of Algernon Sidney's autobiography. They were uncovered and partly transcribed in 2015 by researcher and writer Martyn Webster of Brighton Sussex whom we thank. His interest has been the village of Barcombe, near Lewes, East Sussex, and he found that Algernon Sidney lived for many years in an imposing mansion there, Barcombe House. He wrote three articles for the Sussex Family Historian under the title The Bicknells of Barcombe and alerted us to the find in September 2015.

Valerie Browne Lester, working hard on researching and writing the first biography of Clarence Bicknell, and I went to The Keep on 18th December 2015 for a day's work. We scanned and transcribed further material not covered by Mr Webster. Our interest was the light the archive sheds on Clarence's early life, especially the way in which the elder siblings treat the 13th and last of the children... Clarence was 10 years younger than Algernon Sidney. It is fair to say that Valerie and I were otherwise disappointed with our day because we could find no evidence that Clarence went to the same school in Brighton as Algernon Sidney, Dr Laing's School at 10 (later 11) Sussex Square. Algernon Sidney hardly mentions Clarence in his autobiography all, such was, at best, the difference in age or, at worst, his disdain for Clarence. When Clarence visits him, Algernon Sidney complains that the visits are not more frequent but he makes no effort to visit him in Bordighera... in fact he travels to Bordighera 1907, does not look Clarence up and criticises the place bitterly. Elsewhere in the writings, Algernon Sidney criticises Clarence's role in the church, then criticises him for leaving it and finishes by damning him for doing nothing in his life but "hunt for local wild flowers". But the joys of Clarence's family and their impact on him must wait until Valerie publishes the biography which will be out well in time for the 2018 centenary of Clarence's death.

The Bicknell family collection, which I presently look after, contains two sizeable hand-written works by Algernon Sidney Bicknell. The first is his notes for Excerpta Biconyllea ("A Forgotten Chancellor and a Forgotten Knight. Notes for a history of the Somersetshire family of Biconylle"), 1895 revised 1900, his published history of the Bicknell family, some essential elements of which have since proved to be untrue (see www.marcusbicknell.co.uk). The second is his notes for a second volume of Excerpta Biconyllea which, some might say luckily, never got published.

I compiled the three articles by Martyn Webster into one, edited and illustrated it, with his permission, on 19th December 2015 and you can [download it here \(13 pages in pdf\)](#).

These excerpts, transcribed by Valerie and me, are also available for download at www.clarencebicknell.com on the downloads page (18 pages in pdf).

by Marcus Bicknell on 27 December 2015

¹ Valerie Browne Lester, researcher and biographer, is descended from Sidney Bicknell's maternal grandparents William Loder Browne 1771-1855 and Katherine Hunter 1775-1856.

² Marcus Bicknell is descended from Sidney's brother Percy 1836-1911.

1841-1847 Dr Laing's School, Brighton

Four pages of details of Sid's schooling at Dr Laing's in Sussex Square, Brighton: Threatening to run away, beatings, the toilet, swimming and riding, Saturday washing, Sunday at school, timetable, reading in bed, food, pocket money, the Rev Alexander Mac Lemee Walker, the Hamiltonian System³... not transcribed as at 26 December 2015 (MB)

The_Keep-12-18_16-17-15_Sidney_Bk1_p44.pdf and
p. 50. scan_2015-12-18_16-39-41.1_Sidney_Bk1_pp38-60

One page of details of life at University Hall (University College, London) and his brother Herman not transcribed as at 26 Dec 2015(MB). Continuing with Sid's mother's death...

1850 Death of Lucinda Bicknell née Browne

All went well with us both⁴ until a great calamity occurred; on the 6th of March our mother died of enteric fever, after 12 days illness, at the age of 48. A report got widely circulated that the fatal result caused from having swallowed a bone at dinner, though there was no foundation for that absurd story. This was a truly terrible loss, because my father had never taken the least interest in his children's education, was by nature an unsympathetic though kindly parent, an acquired esteem but scarcely love, and it was as if I had suddenly become an orphan without a friend⁵. My brother seriously proposed that we should dress in black the rest of our lives, in a romantic inaccurate estimate of his mother's talents, youthful appearance and beauty [*she*] possessed for ever after. I do not know what might have happened to me had my mother lived but I dare say nothing different to what did occur as she never actively interfered in directing my life, at all events on June 13 1850 my Father took my away from University Hall⁶ and commenced, without allowing discussion that I was to go into business and till arrangements could be made at another place should from June 15 attend his own counting house at 89 Newington Butts, where the firm of Langton & Bicknell still existing (1902) had always been flourishing for half a century. All my father had ever said to me, half in joke too, was that as I had sharp ways and features I should make a good lawyer, and others taking this up I was, I think, much set against being disposed of in a solicitor's office by the frequent jeering thereon inflicted on me by my family and especially by my father's only brother⁷ when he visited us.

A day or two after my mother died, the Hall Porter at University College came up to my room and said a gentleman had called to enquire after her, on hearing she had died was so affected that he was then walking up and down outside "and tearing out his hair". I went down and found Signor Magrini, who had been Italian Master at Herne Hill, in quite excitement, as described, raving and shedding copious tears more Italiano.

³ Informally, a Hamiltonian system is a mathematical formalism developed by Hamilton to describe the evolution equations of a physical system. The advantage of this description is that it gives important insight about the dynamics, even if the initial value problem cannot be solved analytically. One example is the planetary movement of three bodies: even if there is no simple solution to the general problem, Poincaré showed for the first time that it exhibits deterministic chaos. (Wiki)

⁴ ASB and Herman both at University College London.

⁵ ASB was 20, Herman 18. Clarence, 9 years old, wrote in his bible at the time or thereafter "My mother died at 7.30 a.m. March 6th 1850: when saying goodbye to my eldest brother Herman, she said "I know that at the present day there are many temptations to infidelity. Do not be led away by them, whatever may be the arguments of those that support them. I wish to be interred at Norwood Cemetery. I wish my funeral to be as plain as possible. I hope that you will think of me when I am gone, even as I have thought of you. I rely firmly on the wisdom and good help of the Almighty and look forward to a cheerful immortality. Without that hope these moment would indeed be dreary. God bless you." She died after 10 days illness of peritonitis; she suffered great pain and scarcely slept at all, morphine only making her delirious: but when not under the influence of medicine (sic) her mind remained perfectly clear. She took leave of the elder children separately and said the Lord's Prayer out loud a few minutes before the end."

⁶ University College, London

⁷ Elhanan's father William Bicknell (1749-1825, schoolmaster and author, Newington) had 6 daughters and 2 sons, William Isaac Bicknell (1783-1859, also a schoolmaster and author, Newington) and Elhanan (1788-1861)

On July 27 1851 all my mother's personal effects except furniture and sundry heavy things were divided amongst her children. The books she owned (which I pointed out to my father) were separated into four lots from which Herman, Edgar, Percy and I each chose one according to seniority⁸. Mine were, in English, these... (*there follows a list of 23 English works and 12 foreign*). The daughters received all her jewelry and personal ornaments. Ada had a valuable diamond ring and others, also a splendid silver-mounted *duping* case and 1/3rd of the rest, and she grumbled much at not sharing in the books also. Ada ultimately obtained all the jewelry from her sisters, so Lucinda says now in 1904.

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1851 Ruskin's letter

Casa Wetzler, Wednesday morning October 1st 1851

My dear Mr Bicknell

I am very sorry to hear you are going away today. I only heard of your being here on Monday and yesterday every body was running up and down the town after the Emperor, so I put off calling on you till today to find I am too late, as it would be useless to disturb you in your arrangements for departure. So I can only thank you very much for your kind message by Mr Roberts last night: and beg you to give my sincere regards to your Father, and wish you a pleasant journey. Though I cannot conceive of a pleasant one which takes you away from Venice. You will find Verona, however, full of interest if you have not seen it before. I have nothing with which to trouble you, though had you been a few days later you could not have [??] so liberal an offer with impunity. If there is anything in which I can be useful to you in Venice, remember I am to be here all the winter.

Believe me, very truly yours, J. Ruskin

p. 50. scan_2015-12-18_16-39-41.1_Sidney_Bk1_pp38-60

1851 Elhanan's 4th wedding

In August 1851, my father married Mrs Louisa Jones, née Miss Holland, the widow of Henry Jones, who was the brother of my father's second wife. The bride was 47 and the 4th wife of my father who was 62; they were married at St. George's church, Brighton by my old enemy, the schoolmaster Dr. Laing, no member of our family being present. On the lady's part it was simply a marriage for position and money, and as we all very actively dislike the match and said so, an attempt was made to pacify or square us by sundry benefits. I received £50 as *solatium*, to carry out the dream and longing of my life, a tour in Italy. This widow Jones had one son, Henry, a good natured fellow but a fool, I had always known, and with him I set out on Aug. 9 in the highest spirits, to see what I have ever thought is the most interesting in art and nature in the world, excepting these five towns, Covia, Zurich, Bâle, Frankfurt, and Bonn, which last I slept at in returning, Any other place where I spent a night was new to me.

⁸ Clarence is not mentioned here so was apparently excluded from the sharing out of he mother's possessions. He was 9 years old.

1853 Confirmation

P. 67. To please my old grandmother Mrs. Browne and my Aunt Kate Browne, both very devout old ladies, more than from any conviction of the efficacy of the rite, I was confirmed by Dr. Blomfield, Bishop of London, in St James's Church, Piccadilly. The practice then differed from the present mode of confirming; the candidates knelt along the whole length of the altar railing, and the bishop, on the other side, after laying his hands on each one, proceeded to the centre, and with clasped and uplifted hands towards heaven, uttered in the posture the prayer: "Defend O lord etc." Blomfield did this so dramatically and well, that I fancy I can see him now, and the whole of the consecration words have never left my memory. I should have stated before that I had been christened by the Rev. Montagu Villiers, afterwards Bishop of Carlisle and brother of Lord Clarendon, foreign Secretary of State, at St. George's, Bloomsbury, on Oct 2, 1852, and that a curious thing had happened. My grandmother had decked herself out very gaily for the occasion, and put on a white veil, so when I came down the great flight of steps with the ancient dame on my arm, to go to our carriage, the mob outside mistook it for a wedding, and called out "What an abominable shame"—"poor young man", and other very uncomplimentary exclamations.

1853 The name "Algernon"

I was christened in the name of Algernon Sidney, but when I was born I was registered in the name of Sidney only. I adopted the prefix Algernon either in 1851 or 1852, partly because my brother Henry has also the initial S, and I thought it might create some confusion having brothers both S. Bicknell.

Eustace, Count of Boulogne, who succeeded his father Eustace I in 1047, was distinguished by the sobriquet "Aux Gernons", or "Als Gernons" [with whiskers] and this was the origin of "Algernon".

On my 21st birthday, the 9th Oct 1853, my father gave me £10: I found it in my plate when I came down to breakfast. Mrs Bicknell enriched me with a wedding cake from Bridgman's, but as I cannot recall what it was like I feel sure it was very small and of cheap quality.

1853 Herne Hill Balls

p. 67-68. Since my mother's death we had had no grand dances in our house. Consequently we were overjoyed when my father gave us one on July 12. We had "Weippert's Palace band", with harp, cornet, violin, violin cello, etc. and a couple of professional singers, whom of course the dancers—there were no "wallflowers"—never listened to. The first supper was at 12.30, and the second at 1.30; it came from Bridgman, of Wigmore St, a very celebrated confectioner and cost 10/6 a head. It ended at 4.30. A ball at our house was quite an event to excite the neighbourhood, for the four drawings rooms, library, hall, and dining room, filled with works of art, and brilliantly lighted, as well as the splendid conservatory, with its enormous mirror reflecting 60 of the 120 foot length, presented a scene no neighbouring house could match. (ASB adds a note ...) This glass, the largest ever made till then, had been one of the wonders of the Great Exhibition of 1851, and not having been sold my father bought it of the makers at a reduced price of, I think, 100 guineas and cut it a little to make it fit. The conservatory was in the shape of a Latin cross.

I also recollect the first ball we ever attended at home, in my mother's time, and how in her anxiety to look young—which she always looked without artificial tricks—she sent for a crack French coiffeur from town, but the man did her hair in such a way that he put on ten years to her age at least. Herman and I had magnificent hand embroidered waistcoats, costing I do not know how much, for the occasion,

and I have seen nothing like them at a party since. The famous John Parry sang as well as Miss Louisa Pyne of the Italian Opera, the two Miss Williams, and Clara Novello, though perhaps all of these ladies did not perform on the same night, for at one time we had many parties and other dances. Her König too, the best cornet player in the world “blew our heads off” with his, I think, disagreeable instrument, though the waltzers adored it, especially those who danced in time with difficulty.

21st birthday

On my 21st birthday, the 9th Oct. 1853, my father gave me £10; I found it in my plate when I came down to breakfast; Mrs Bicknell enriched me with a wedding cake from Bridman’s, but as I cannot recall what it was like, I feel sure it was very small and of cheap quality. In this year, I joined the Vintners’ Company.

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1854 Ada’s behaviour.

I said just now I was not completely happy at home and thing had entirely altered since my Mother died. The new Mrs. Bicknell had no sympathy with any of us [not even Clarence?], nor we with her, and my sister Ada, who had been dethroned from management when the fresh mistress arrived, carried on a perpetual internecine warfare with her stepmothers. Indeed my sister’s temper seemed to keep at boiling point, and she tried to dominate with most aggravating and dogmatic interference, not only all her brothers and sisters, but my father as well. If it had not been for my sister’s treatment of my father, he would very likely never have married again, and certainly not so soon. In my case, apart from this, I always smarted under the knowledge that I was hopelessly wasting my life.

12-18_16-18-20_Sidney_Bk1_p101 p. 100.

1857 Ada’s wedding.

On the 20 August, 1857, my eldest sister Ada married Mr. Edward Berry at the Unitarian Chapel, in the Effra Road, Brixton, and if I had ever been in the least inclined to join my Father’s faith, I am sure that gruesome spectacle would have deterred me. The bride and bridegroom stood on one side of a mahogany table beneath the reading desk and pulpit, and the minister in an ordinary dress [went] on the other. There was no music, not even a hymn; a Unitarian form of marriage service was read, and the happy pair walked away very shortly as man and wife. At the grand breakfast at home I proposed the Bridesmaids, and I remember saying that like Curtius arrayed in his chamber they were all ready, arrayed in white, to jump into the gulf—of matrimony; a sentiment which my brother in law Dr Edgar ⁹, a barrister, afterwards told me, was the best thing said, and in the only good speech there was.

⁹ Elhanan’s 4th child Mary Ann Bicknell 1817-1858 was married to Dr Andrew Edgar (1815-1873), a barrister (her 2nd husband).

1857 ASB complaining about his father and standing up to him.

I said: “What you want is not an affectionate son but a slave who will agree with you in anything, do exactly all you tell him, and pretends that you are a model father whom he doats on. I won’t do it. I would rather beg my bread in a foreign country, or in the street, than cringe and faw as some of my brothers do—whom you favour.” Of course he got very angry at last, and we separated with a sort of mutual defiance. I expect this exhibition of my thorough independence in reality opened his ears to the conspirators whispering against me, and hence it came about that he determined to ne quite of me in business then and there, and thereby also to prevent my marriage. Perhaps in my whole life two pieces of gross injustice, two outrageous breaches of faith, though of different consequence and value, have impressed me (either more) lastingly or disagreeably than my far more important event ever have: in a sort of way I still feel angry, and have not forgiven them. One was the broken promise about the box seat in the Scotch journey (see p. 19) and the other the shameful and utterly causeless dismissal from this city office. What astonished me so immensely on those occasions was not however entirely the injustice I had to bear, but my inability to obtain a reason for it; an open honest quarrel can be forgotten, but a contemptuous refusal to explain a wrong—like ingratitude—leaves a more or less indelible stamp upon the mind.

This discussion with my father, which only varied from a dozen others inasmuch as it was more comprehensive and completely open on both sides, naturally convinced me that henceforth there could be no great sympathy, or none, between us. We never had anything in our natures in common from the first, though it was only now I knew it absolutely; consequently is it wonderful I began to think I had lived too long at home, when how I could be compelled to go. If the business was taken away no doubt my motive for staying would be gone as well, and just then I concluded the two conspirators supplied the requisite incentive to make my father summarily pack me off. At all accounts, on Dec. 10th, I was, as I have already said, turned adrift once more, at the age of 25, with my original £200 a year to live how and where I pleased. But I must add that on Dec. 12th he offered me £250 a year if I would go abroad and stay there.

p. 104. scan_2015-12-18_16-21-03.1_Sidney_Bk1_pp103-104

1857 Sidney’s wedding

—no very cordial liking for me, and did not intend to assist me in being married, or as far as I could see in any other way. What could I do? He had even advised Mr Wild, my father-in-law to refuse his consent to my engagement, and thereby brought us into direct antagonism. I thought my position over, and one or twice again I tried to awake my father’s sympathy but all in vain, for he would not even listen to a word. Then at last I took the firm resolve that a life like this at home must end, and that I would at all events leave a place where I had neither friends to love, nor communion with a single kindred soul. It did not occur to me that time and patience would bring me to any goal I longed for, and that sooner or later my energy and ability were sure to conquer: I was blind to that, and I only smarted under the injustice and apathy I encountered, and panted to be free. So it led to this, that on Nov. 13th 1857, I married Miss Wild at the church of St John the Evangelist, in Westminster, without the knowledge of either family and with no one excepting my uncle Hablot K. Browne, and official witnesses, attending the ceremony. My wife I escorted to her father immediately, before lunch was served, and her parents, ignorant of her position, soon sent her away on a visit to a cousin in Droitwich, without our meeting again. We wrote to each other, and we kept our secret, not knowing I suppose what it would be best to do, and how much longer I might have pursued that science I cannot say, had not my father, after he had suddenly deprived me of the income I looked forward to, smiling contemptuously one evening at dessert when we were often alone as usual and I reverted, with a sort of forlorn hope, to my marriage scheme. Then, urged by an indignant impulse, I said: “But I will marry Miss Wild, in spite of all your opposition, and her father’s too—which you created.” “Indeed”, his favourite solitary word, he answered: “Yes”, I replied with emphasis, “I have married.”

1863 Sale of Herne Hill and art collection

It was nonetheless a memorable year in our family history because my father's famous collection of pictures, sculpture, watercolours, and prints were sold at Christie's on April the 25th and three following days; and also because our old home at Herne Hill was entirely denuded of its valuable contents by a four days' sale on the premises, commencing on the 16th of June, and the house and grounds offered to any buyer. The testamentary valuation my father had appraised his works of art at £29,996 in 1857 and at £36,398 in 1860, and they fetched at auction £75,055.8.0; consequently a grand windfall of £38,657.8. fell to my brothers Henry and Percy, the residuary legatees, beyond what they expected to receive. The prices, for those days, were truly enormous; it was the first sale in which the works of English masters realized anything like such sums, and the average obtained for each of the whole number of oil paintings was £463, but as more than half of those pictures were small, and though good yet unimportant specimens, the last thirty lots brought about £1330 apiece, a sum, as far as I know, never obtained again to the present day for so few English artists' works. The furniture of the house and grounds fetched £4133.7.4., and I consider this a large sum in as much as it included none of the works of art, or a very large proportion of the best things, which Mrs Bicknell had retained for herself, and contrary to the spirit of my father's will, had unfairly augmented in order to fill a house she had taken of much greater size than she required. The estate was afterwards sold to a Mr Nicholson, a merchant, who immediately pulled down the entire portion of the house including the room I was born in and the little room I always occupied, and rebuilt it in the very worst taste.

(Pity ASB does not say what price the house went for. Ed – MB 21 Dec 2015)

1877 Shaker Encampment

We made a complete exploration of the forest in a waggonette . . . One uncommon sight came in our way, that of the Shaker encampment, 12 miles off, near Hordle. These visionaries of whom there were 92, including 30 women and 22 children, came chiefly from Suffolk, and they lived in a 2 ¼ acre field, in three or four tattered tents, and a wooden room serving for chapel, refectory, and sitting in. Their high priestess, Mrs Girdle [sic] or Girdling [sic] has persuaded her flock that some two years before she had talked with Jesus and received her mission; moreover she had convinced them she would never die. A few vegetables grew in the field. But they could have failed, of course to keep so many people alive, if it had not been for the sixpences and shillings curious visitors bestowed on them. Mrs Girdle dressed in a white muslin plain gown, like a child, and in her eyes I was sure I saw the glare and glitter of insanity. Unfortunately for the prosperity of this sect the priestess died (in Sept. 1886) when the few believers disappeared; although they had been ejected from this encampment about a year after I called upon them.

1882 Phiz and his talent

My uncle Hablot Browne, the famous illustrator of Dickens, and many other books, died at his house at Hove, near Brighton, on July 8, aged 66. I went to see him a good deal, at intervals, and always found him very pleasant. He was an exceedingly handsome man in face, with olive colored complexion, and singularly fine hazel eyes. His inventive talent which I should say certainly came from the French ancestry of the Brownes, was never fully appreciated by the public who merely saw his finished etchings. He drew the most complicated and wonderful figure pictures, teeming with monsters, fairies, and all kinds of creatures, without taking one correcting stroke to the outline, and there was nothing he would not attempt—from the enormous cartoon of Caesar landing in Britain (exhibited in competition for the Houses of Parliament frescos, at Westminster Hall) down to the minutest watercolour. He had never had more than the slightest teaching at an art school in St. Martin's Lane, and his drawing would have been more correct, but he was one of those natural geniuses who could not bear control, and all his life he lived in a wild and improvident fashion, caring nothing for money or the morrow.

The artistic talent existed in all my mother's family; her grandfather Simon Browne, his two sons, and many of my mother's brothers and sisters painted well and of my mother's own children few have not had the facility or taste in design or watercolour. For my own part I may say I have always found drawing quite within my ability and the dozen or more watercolours I have executed I dare say may show it, but I have always been too intimately acquainted with the highest art, both of the ancient and modern masters to care to spend much time in work which I knew could never be first rate...

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1883 Elhanan's will and £5000 to Edgar

. . . a totally unmentionable character. Evidence on oath was stated to my father by respectable witnesses, which rendered it impossible to accept any connexion with such a family. And my father having without reserve laid the whole case before me, I entirely agreed with him, that Edgar had no right to disgrace us by such an alliance. It does not, in my opinion, alter the question of the weight of a single straw, that the girl herself was not to blame; otherwise what chance would any family ever have of keeping up a decent position, and of advancement, if children are to be allowed to marry any woman they fancy, quite regardless of the relationship she may have to others who are vile. In Edgar's quarrel with my father he was not only wrong throughout, but he went needlessly out of the way to hurt his feelings by violent language, and finally by insulting him by celebrating his marriage at the church on Herne Hill, close to my father's house, and thus prominently drawing the attention of the neighbourhood to it. When my father died, on Nov. 17, 1861, it was found he had left Edgar only £5000 absolutely, instead of an equal share in trust to those brothers, who were not residuary legatees. I had spoken to my father only a week or two before, and suggested how ready I would be to smooth over the estrangement if he would allow me to try; but I heard from him a decided refusal, in terms most moderate and considerate, but that convinced me he had quite made up his mind and there was no way of condoning the outrage of such a fault, and of such ingratitude. He said, very truly, that as Mr Horner (in reality the father of the girl) had induced Edgar to do this great wrong, he should make what amends he could for it by providing handsomely—for he was rich—for his wife's future, which he did not however believe this Horner would do—since it would be admitting his blood relationship with Miss Hill—if he (my father) by treating Edgar without difference from others, rendered it unnecessary. This being my father's action, it naturally became a question with Edgar's brothers and sisters whether they would in any way increase the income he would derive from his £5000. My father's will was made on March 22, 1861, but I have no reason to suppose that he altered the amounts he left his children in consequence of Edgar's money being reduced; but whether he did or not, Elhanan's family, Henry, and Lucinda, refused to contribute a shilling, and Henry I must admit, it talking over the matter with me, employed a very cogent argument when he said he could not surrender any portion of his inheritance to Edgar, without passing an open censure on my father, whose conduct he considered just and proper. The others, that is, NEXT PAGE MISSING. WOULD LOVE TO KNOW WHAT CLARENCE DID.

1884 Death of Elhanan's 4th wife

On September 9th Mrs. Bicknell, my father's last wife died in 6 hours of apoplexy, aged 80, in her son-in-law's house at Chudleigh. She had been the wife of a brother of my father's second wife, and no doubt married my father solely for money and position. The very first thing she did after her marriage was to persuade my father to alter his will in her favor, and to give her £1200 a year instead of a thousand, which was the sum he had bequeathed my mother in case she survived him, and who had already been 20 years his wife and mother of 8 children. Also when my father died she much strained the fair meaning of the legacies left her and contrived to get £400 a year more by allowing the executors to invest the capital, set aside to produce her 1200, in gilt edged securities instead of in the funds. She had been a devout member of the Church of England with her first husband, but married my father a Unitarian, and after his death immediately became a Roman Catholic to oblige her daughter. Her grave is in the private burial ground of the Convent of Abbotsleigh, near Newton Abbott. This lady naturally did not love her stepchildren, but she paid me the compliment of declaring I was "the only gentleman in the whole family." As she lived 33 years after this marriage, and 23 after she became a widow, and as she had about £400 a year of her own, and must have saved greatly out of the £2000 a year which at the very least she had after 1861, it is certain that she gave the chief part of her wealth to her only living child, of the first marriage, for she only left #5139.18. net by her will. She lived during almost the whole period of her widowhood probably quite free of expence with her rich son-in-law, the Rev. Hamilton Baillie.

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1888 Elhanan's trustees

When my father died Nov 27 1861, it will be remembered that he left me 35,000£ and the two residuary legatees, my brother Percy and half-brother Henry, had to pay me 4£ during the next four years, and then invest the capital as trustees jointly with Dr Edgar's consent, who was also trustee. From that time till March 15 1888 the money had remained in five securities and, if I had not on the above-named date protested at the inaction of these gentlemen, I am sure it would be there still. In consequence because of my complaining, they at last sold the investments for over £50,000 but then they took no further steps to reinvest in other shares and as the first securities were daily going up I lost about 2000£ before they made up their minds what they would do. I cannot understand why trustees generally take no trouble: if they don't care what income the trust produces they should resign and allow someone else to take their place. My brothers and Dr Edgar required a charge of dynamite exploded under their feet to wake them up.

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1888 Phiz sale

A third sale of drawings by my uncle Hablot¹⁰ took place on May 14th at Sotheby's. I did not buy anything. Two days afterwards my brother Percy told me he had resolved to sell his house at Beckenham "because he could not stand his wife's bullying him to leave any longer". He might as well have told the truth which was that he could no longer afford the expense. He says it cost 18,000 and he will take 10,000

¹⁰ Hablot Knight Browne – "Phiz"

1891 Visit from Clarence

My brother Clarence came on a visit to us at Staplefield on August 8, and stayed till the 14th. He told me he had enjoyed himself very much, and I thought he had. I asked him if he would mind telling me why he had suddenly given up acting as a clergyman, and he answered: "because I could not go on teaching such abominable lies any longer". That was plain speaking with a vengeance, but does not satisfactorily explain why he posed as a sort of saint, preached missions, and condemned marriage etc. for so many years, and did not discover what he now thinks the truth a good deal earlier, for he was at that present date 49 years old. Also he offered us apology, or expression of regret, for having cut me and my family all his life without any reason. Unfortunately for the value of this improved change of mind concerning me, he has not been to see me again in the last 18 years; so I fear he has relapsed into his original dislike of me, or whatever it was which kept him away.

The_Keep-12-18_13-06-41_Sidney_Bk2_p139-141_Browne.pdf incorrectly suffixed Browne

1891 Observatory accident

An odd thing happened just at this time. Visitors, chiefly friends, often came to my observatory and one of the things I showed them generally was the case with which, by the pressure lightly applied of one hand to a handle inside, the dome, weighing 8 tons, could be spun round. One day I showed some ladies how it worked and gave the dome a quick revolution when loud screams were heard from outside. On running out I found I had forgotten some painters who were doing the dome, and I had swept them all off onto the ground, like brushing away flies. As it happened, they all fell into a double row of *Thuja*¹¹ trees I had planted round the walk and they escaped with only a bad fright and shaking. But they might have been killed, for the height of their stations varied from 10 to 20 feet.

The_Keep-12-18_13-07-31_Sidney_Bk2_p139-141_Browne_again. Edgar in Oregon.

1892 Edgar in Oregon.

I noted in my diary on Aug 8 that my income including Rosa's, owing to the depreciation of dividends, and non-payment of others, was then only about £2000 a year which would not be sufficient to allow of keeping both Stapleford Place and 23 Onslow Gardens, and spending anything on travel and enjoyment.

My brother Edgar wrote to me, Sep. 2, complaining of his uninteresting hard life. Considering that I found when I visited him in Oregon this year, that doing a little rough cooking, and walking round his ground with a gun, was all the work he did, his letter surprised me a little. He said he would sooner live in lodgings in England at 10/- a week than remain in America. His estate realized £140 a year by corn, and £12 had to be deducted for threshing. He does not take into account the fruit grown, or the timber, or that he has a house rent free, and only £15 a year taxes. I estimated his income in Oregon to equal £300 a year in England.

P139 & 141 visit to Norfolk to research Lucinda Browne's family. Great grandmother Mrs Simon Browne lived to "1 year and 10 weeks short of 100".

¹¹ *Thuja* is a genus of coniferous *trees* in the Cupressaceae (cypress family).

1893 Sidney's debt

Feb 22. I paid Coutts off £5700 and £506.5.4 interest, and got completely out of debt to them. They were not generous to me. The whole period of my indebtedness to them, money was at ½ to 1½ pc, or nearly all the time, and they made me pay them 5 pc. And they made me sell my securities at a tremendous loss, whereas if they had waited I should have recovered the greater part of the whole of my outlay.

Editor's note (Marcus): this is the first time we have read Sid admitting any weakness of any sort, in this case some debt, probably on 23 Onslow Gardens or Staplefield. He is merciless in his criticism of Percy's handling of his affairs. The words Pot and Kettle spring to mind.

1893 Herman's widow and their son Herman Kentigern Bicknell

The widow of my brother Herman called on Aug 9 to introduce her only son, Herman, aged 18 last April. I had heard nothing of her for about 15 years. After my brother died I naturally did not seek her company any more than was necessary for me to assist in winding up his affairs, finishing his Háfiz, selling his instruments etc. She was not a lady, utterly common, and uninteresting, and a sordid pervert of Catholicism. Most of the years had been spent by her in various lodgings abroad, and her boy had received no regular education, only occasional teaching by monks. He resembled his mother in face, and I feel will soon go from the bad to the bad example, over-indulgence and want of control, and as will be seen later (in 1908) how correct I was. My dying Brother had begged me to be the child's guardian, but I could not accept that office, because his mother was to be appointed joint guardian with me.

Editor's note (Marcus): these are the words of a man loaded with the weight of intolerance and self-importance. Awful. His dismissive description of his sister-in-law Elizabeth Anne Crooke is disrespectful to his late brother and an indictment of the writer. The last sentence does further damage to our impression of Sidney; his dying brother asks him to be his son's guardian and he refuses... for such a petty reason?

1897 Herne Hill Pictures

The value of pictures, since the sale of my father's collection, had steadily increased, and when Christies, the art auctioneer, sold four on May 30, their price had advanced thus: Wreckers and the Guidecca¹² by Turner RA, Lost Sheep by Sir Edwin Landseer, Early Morning, Sussex Coast¹³, by Collins RA, which cost my father respectively 288.15, 262.10, 3.50, 336, realised £7980, 7140, 3150, 1155. Hence the total cost having been 1237.50 and the sale price 19425, the difference was the enormous one of £18,187.15

¹² The Guidecca was sold in 2005 for \$36 million (approx £27m). Elhanan bought it for £262.10.0 which today after inflation is worth about £5000. It was sold after his death for £7140 which is worth about £135,000 today. The picture's intrinsic value has therefore increased from £135,000 to £27m, i.e. 200 times. Wreckers was sold in 2004 for \$1.4m. What? Is that all?

¹³ "Sussex Coast" could be the same picture as Seaford, Sussex (1844), three children on sand dunes with the sea in the background.

1900 Ruskin

1900. John Ruskin died at his house near Coniston, on January 20, when he was nearly 81. This is what I said about him in my diary at the time, and I agree with what I then said. "When I lived at my Father's at Herne Hill I often saw him both before and after his marriage. He dined with us just before his wife left, and I took her in to dinner. She wore a white dress, of peculiar shape, with gilt buttons, and she told me 'dear John' designed all her clothes. She was an extremely silly woman without any intellect, who cared for nothing but dressing herself. Ruskin was a very kind and amicable man, and most pleasant to children; he gave my wife drawing lessons and advice. His character had been spoiled by the petting of his narrow-minded Scotch parents, which made him conceited and arrogant in quite a comic way. He thought nobody knew about art except himself, though he constantly changed his opinion concerning the merit of different artists, and if he did not like a picture by any of his contemporaries, he thought nothing of sending them an abusive letter in violent and rude language, not caring a straw how much he hurt their feelings. I cannot agree that his style in writing was a good one. He used very long sentences, crammed with adjectives, and with tiresome punctuation; he seems never to have studied the terse brevity of the classic authors. Though he praised Turner to the skies, he had not sufficient faith in his work to recommend his rich wine-merchant father to buy any examples of it. It was my father, not Ruskin, who in reality caused Turner to be more appreciated, and after he had purchased about 25 of his oil paintings, Ruskin then only bought one "The Slave Ship", which had long been unsalable on account of its unpleasant subject. Ruskin's teaching was utterly unpracticable, and often mere nonsense. Many a young man of promise he deceived by lavishly praising him too soon. The most absurd [??] of Ruskin's crazes was his trying to make out that Turner [was] an estimable honest gentleman, whereas he was a mean, avaricious, cheating [nursir??] with no good qualities at all, who only left his money in his pictures to the nation to glorify himself. Ruskin was a prophet, not a sensible connoisseur or critic of art, who should have lived in the middle ages." It is odd that both Ruskin and Carlyle were born with defective bodily power to continue the human species, which led to Ruskin's wife obtaining a divorce, with Carlyle ruining his wife's happiness; but these men, though both looked up to by certain enthusiasts as great teachers and masters, were widely different in character. Mr Ruskin was actually a kind-hearted enthusiast, generally like, whereas Carlyle was a Scotch uneducated ruffian, who never said a good word for anyone, and delighted in malicious brutality. I doubt if in the whole history of literary men another author could be named who was so detestable a character as Carlyle, or a greater humbug.

The_Keep-12-18_13-24-33_Sidney_Bk2_pp281_299_Percy's_ruin.pdf

1901 Percy's Ruin

I come now to a chapter of family history I should much like to leave out if it were possible, but I cannot write my autobiography and omit circumstances which have influenced my life and conduct. The truth, in justice to myself, must be told, on how can the happiness or unhappiness I have passed through be appreciated?

One day I heard that my nephew Herman had spread a report that his uncle Percy, my brother, was nearly bankrupt. I had always believed Percy to be a rich man, for he had always lived luxuriously like one, and I knew that he inherited about £120,000 from his father as well as an old established lucrative business. So I took this to be merely a specimen of that unfounded malicious gossip some members of the family often relieve their malaise by indulging in.

Four days later (Sep.27), being at the National Liberal Club, my brother admitted to me that his accounts with Herman's trust money had been irregularly treated and that he was in difficulty owing to having spent too freely, having helped his sons too liberally, and kept up two houses. I pointed out that on the preceding Sep.19th he owed me as my trustee no less than 884.6.11 which had accumulated in his hands since July, and that he then only paid me £200 and promised to give me the balance on Oct.1. In reply he asked me to be satisfied with £600 on Oct.1 and said I should have the remainder on Oct.15.

This resulted in my receiving the promised 400 on Oct.4 and nothing on the 15th. Though, after writing to complain, I did at last obtain the balance £284.6.11 on Oct.24. I very soon however had cause to remonstrate again, for a dividend of £182.12.9 received by him on Oct.24 I could not obtain, after two letters sent him, and on Nov.14 he asked me to let him keep my money till Jan.1 or “he should stop payment and be a disgrace to the family”.

For the moment I will now defer continuing the above sad story, that I may finish my notes concerning a few things which happened before the end of the year...(changes subject).

... I here return to the catastrophe in my brother's affairs. On Nov.21 at my brother's office I asked him to be more explicit concerning his position, that I might better know how I could help him. The startling avowal then came in these words: “I lied to you the other night” (on the 14th): “I have taken two of your trust securities and used the money £1050 and also the money Clarence left in a running account at interest in my hands about 7000£¹⁴, and £700 of Ada's.” To this confession I replied only with kind words of sorrow, and in the evening, from home, I also wrote to assure him that I was only shocked and aggrieved, not angry. It is true that felt no resentment, perhaps – who knows – a paltry theft or deception might have angered me greatly, but this was so incredible, so astounding, that it left me only lamenting that a son of my most honourable father, his partner, executor and trustee, a residuary legatee. Would fall so low in immorality and crime. On further examination of his liabilities I found the above was not even all he had done, for 3000 he held in trust for Malcolm, his brother Henry's son: 1000 of Lady Selfe's (Henry's daughter): 1555 of Ada's beyond the 700 already named: 182.12 a div. of mine: had all vanished. Yet I gave him then and there £150 for immediate necessity and – what I thought was generous of me - £50 to make up 300, a div. owing to my sister Lucinda, that she and her husband might not find out his conduct. The whole family loss amounted at that time to 14637.15 and all his assets were mortgaged to his bankers who had advanced about 8500. The deficit, if the family claimed in tort any balance there might be over after paying the bankers, it seemed would then be about £8245 loss to share amongst the losers, though of course no one ever claimed a farthing from these surplus assets, and besides losing the whole 14637 or thereabouts, several of us contributed as gifts large sums to keep my brother from becoming a bankrupt. I acted however at once with energy – a quality no other of my family possesses – as I sent to Roberts [*Young*], the bankers, to call over all the securities in their possession and also recovered others which had been improperly left in other hands, and then an instruction was given Roberts by Percy, his solicitor and myself that they were to part with none of those documents without the signature of all three. One other service I rendered was by guaranteeing, with my sister Ada, Percy's solicitor's charges and the cost of a chartered accountant to examine the books of Langton & Bicknell which actually had not been balanced for eight years. If in October I had not insisted on more punctual payment, and demanded the larger sum owing to m, and if by my questioning on Nov. 12 and 21 I had not forced the truth to come out, I think in all probability our losses might have grown to vastly greater dimensions and perhaps we might all finally have been involved in one [*common*] ruin. The family owe me a deep debt of gratitude, but they have never acknowledged it, or thanked me by a single word.

... In my own family there have been some old people, though no centenarians.

My maternal great grandmother Mrs. Simon Browne lived 98 years, 9 calendar months and 17 days:

Mrs Eliza Moxon, my 1st cousin, was 94 years 4 days:

my maternal grandmother was 82 years, 7 months and 13 days

and her first husband was 84 and 40 days:

Mrs Grant my maternal aunt was 84 and 41 days:

Mrs Moxon, my great-aunt, 83 years 50 days:

Samuel Bicknell my great-great-uncle was 87

Richard Bicknell, my great-great-grandfather 83, and his wife 85:

Frederick Bicknell, my 1st cousin, lived to be years months days:

and the Rev John Bicknell also my 1st cousin to years months days (both living Nov 1909)

¹⁴ About £130,000 in 2015

1904 Life Threatening Incidents

Alongside a long and detailed report of an operation to remove 5 inches of his intestine (possibly cancerous but not so described), Sidney writes...

I have often thought of commemorating the occasions on which I have been in danger of my life. I can only remember a few, but this list might be much lengthened.

1. Storm on Lake Neuchatel
2. do. “ Killarney
3. Collision in steamer outside New York
4. Suffocation by gas in in Brandfold well
5. Showers of stones, bridges over crevasses, in the Alps
6. Change of weather on Monte Rosa
7. Bridges and precipices in the Andes
8. Steam engine in Cornish mine, accident
9. Carried out to sea at Brighton
10. Falling into the Ouse (*also on this page, just after his operation*)
11. Bicycle accident

The_Keep-12-18_13-25-59_Sidney_Bk2_p367_Ada_paralysed_1906 p. 367

1906 Ada Paralysed

My sister Ada had a paralytic stroke, Sept. 27, in the middle of the day, without any warning, and it was for some weeks uncertain if she would live. One side was rendered useless, and speech and sight for a time was affected. This happened at her residence in the village or hamlet of Fairseat, near Wrotham, Kent. However, her illness progressed favourably, and though she has never been able to walk from that day, she still, in a recumbent posture, enjoys her existence in January 1910, at the time I write.

The_Keep-12-18_13-26-53_Sidney_Bk2_p375_Bordighera_1907. p. 375

1907 Comments on Bordighera

By far the best of the Riviera places for comfort and for scenery is Mentone, and the worst is Bordighera, which has no respectable sea front, but only low marshy ground, and one very poor street of wretched little shops. I cannot conceive how anybody could choose to live anywhere on this coast, for the climate is generally a detestable one of extremes of heat and cold, wind and dust, and it is only accessible by the single road running east and west.

1907 Sale of father's business

Whilst I was abroad my brother Percy sent out a circular announcing that he had “disposed of his stock contracts and goodwill” to Charles Price & Co. of Castle Baynard¹⁵ (Wharf) in Upper Thames St. No.13-14, of Belvedere, Kent, and elsewhere. That is to say he had sold the business at Newington

¹⁵ Castle Baynard is one of the 25 Wards of the City of London, the historic and financial centre of London. The Ward covers an irregular shaped area, sometimes likened to a tuning fork, bounded on the east by the Wards of Queenhithe and Bread Street; the River Thames to the south; the Ward of Farringdon Without to the north and west; and the Ward of Farringdon Within to the north.

Butts entirely, and would retire¹⁶. His agreement with Price & Co. was this: they to pay £1000, in instalments after two, four and six months for the goodwill and such part of the plant and machinery as they require: They to take all the stock, except 50 to 100£ worth of casks, at value: and Percy to remain as manager some months, during the time of removal, and he to receive half of any profit made during that period. So came to an end a business carried on for more than a century¹⁷, raised to great prosperity by my father solely, and which brought him the noble fortune of about half a million. After my father died, in 1861, my half-brother Henry and Percy were joint partners. Henry died in Jun 1880, and Percy then came into possession of the whole profits. Henry's expenses were always much in excess of Percy's, for he had nine children, kept up a large establishment, and was profusely hospitable, yet he left about £120,000: whilst Percy, after over 50 years in the business, and 27 years alone in it, had contrived by the arrival of 1907, to ruin both it and himself, and contract enormous debts he could never repay¹⁸. I wonder what my father would have thought of the extinction of his business, and of the conduct of Percy whom he selected from his five sons – I presume for uprightness and ability – to be a partner, executor, residuary legatee and trustee in conjunction with Henry! If anything could have done it, I am sure Percy's dishonesty and folly would have broken his heart. One small consolation I have in my brother writing to me, that if it had not been for the pecuniary assistance I had given him from time to time he does not know how he could have got over his difficulties.

The_Keep-12-18_13-27-43_Sidney_Bk2_p425_Percy_Burnham.pdf

1909 Percy's Burnham Villa

Sep.29. Visited my brother Percy at Burnham¹⁹. He has bought a new "villa" close to the village for about 750, and I suppose when his improvements are reckoned, his expenditure will be 100 more. He said his wife²⁰, who had no money at all he always declared hitherto, would pay half out of savings, and Clarence has agreed to give him the remainder. A little later however it turned out that Percy owed a 200 bill somewhere, and had debts, so that he could not find the money he agreed to give the builder and so it ended in Clarence paying the whole. In spite of this it has since come out that Percy's wife still was keeping 250£ worth of diamonds! The fact is that no experience and no misfortune will ever *ease* my brother of his silly extravagance and give him common sense, and his daughter²¹ is quite right when she declares he *might never* to have any money at his own disposal except a little weekly allowance.

¹⁶ Percy 1836-1911 was 71 years old.

¹⁷ The whale oil industry which made Elhanan's fortune was short-lived... 40 years in total. In 1819 the first British whaleship, the *Syren* (510 tons), was sent to the Japan grounds, where she began whaling on 5 April 1820. She returned to London on 21 April 1822 with 346 tons of sperm oil. The following year at least nine British whalers were cruising on this ground, and by 1825 the British had twenty-four vessels there. Despite this discovery, the number of vessels being fitted out annually for the southern fishery declined from sixty-eight in 1820 to thirty-one in 1824. In 1825 there were ninety ships in the southern fishery, but by 1835 it had dwindled to sixty-one. Fewer and fewer vessels were being fitted out, so that by 1843 only nine vessels were clearing for the southern fishery. In 1859 the last cargoes of sperm oil from British vessels were landed in London (source: Wiki). *With this in mind, the decline of Elhanan's business cannot be blamed entirely on Percy (MB 26Dec2015).*

¹⁸ Price's Patent Candles Ltd. began manufacturing candles in 1830. By the end of the century the company was the largest maker of candles in the world. It made inexpensive stearine candles that burned almost as well as expensive beeswax candles and held 114 patents for its inventions. Later the introduction of mass production enabled Price's to dominate the nightlight market. More history of Price & Co at <http://www.prices-candles.co.uk/history/historydetail.asp>. There is no mention there of the acquisition of Langton & Bicknell in 1907. The piece emphasises that Price based its success on candles made of tallow (animal fat) and stearine which is cheaper than beeswax, and much cheaper than spermaceti from whales. The implication is that the market for lighting moved away from whale oils because of newer better products.

¹⁹ Burnham is a village and civil parish that lies north of the River Thames in the South Bucks District of Buckinghamshire, on the boundary with Berkshire, between the towns of Maidenhead and Slough.

²⁰ He had married Lisa (Sarah Elizabeth Smith) 6 Apr 1859 in Tipperary. Percy and Lisa are the parents of Raymond Bicknell (1875-1927), Marcus's grandfather.

²¹ Percy had 3 daughters who survived childbirth, Kathleen Ellen (1862-1885), Nora Matilda (1871-1960) and Linda Mary (1873-1929). Sid could be referring to Nora who was close to Clarence (who bought the house for Percy) and worked in the English Bank of Edward Berry in Bordighera for a while, or to Linda who lived and died in Burnham.

1909 Clarence's Visit

My brother Clarence came on Nov. 25 and stayed with us till the 27th. I do not think he has visited us six times in his life. He explains it by saying "he naturally saw some members of the family more than others." When he was being educated by tutors after he left school, and during the years he was at Trinity College, Cambridge, he never asked me to see him once. For 10 years or more, after being ordained, he preached missions, wore a singular clerical costume, and joined some kind of Protestant Order. Then suddenly he left the church altogether, became unfrocked legally, and has lived, doing nothing but hunt for local wild flowers, at Bordighera to the present day. When I asked him why he left the church, he replied with these words: "because I could not go on teaching lies any longer". If he had been a poor man instead of a very rich one, what would he have done?

The_Keep-12-18_13-28-41_Sidney_Bk2_p437_Percy_again.pdf

1910 Percy again, Father's 1st marriage

Amongst my letters waiting for me at home – for I ordered none to be forwarded – I found one from my brother Percy asking me to lend him £40, because his house-keeping, fishmonger &c. and his new garden, had cost more than he had expected. It made me wonder how much longer I shall be asked to furnish money on loan or otherwise, to assist a man who will never live within his income, and who has been in hopeless bankrupt condition since the middle of 1901 or earlier (see p.281-283).

A matter which has always been puzzle to me I at last explained on Sept 30. I never knew where my father had married his first wife, and I searched the registers of the seven most likely churches, at different times, in vain. I thought it very unlikely the ceremony had been performed far away from Newington, because Mr. Langton, when locomotion was so difficult and dreary would probably not have gone far from London after he made his business over to his son and my father. Fortunately, after looking at the marriages recorded in the books of the Commissary Court of Surrey, and those of the Archdeacon of London's Faculty Office, I discovered the entry in the Vicar General's office for licenses in the Province of Canterbury, but described as a marriage between "Bicknell and Wootton". His cousin's name was Hannah Wootton Langton, and by sheer carelessness the Langton had been omitted. Hampton, Hampton Court, Middlesex, was the place. It was a good instance, I think, of the danger of marrying 1st cousins²², for the first child, Emily, lived only 2 months; the second, Elhanan, died aged 57: and the third within 3 months of his birth.

²² Elhanan's first wife was his cousin Hannah Wootton Langton. Both were descended from John Bicknell 1716-1754, serge-maker in Taunton, and Jane Green 1717-1775, Elhanan via their 6th child William Bicknell 1749-1825, schoolmaster and author in Newington, and Hannah via their 8th child Sarah Bicknell 1754-1833, wife of John Walter Langton 1746-1822 of Newington. Elhanan would be brought into the company with Langton's son John Bicknell Langton and the company renamed Langton & Bicknell.

Mountains Ascended

1. Mont Blanc
2. Monte Rosa
3. Matterhorn
4. Breithorn
5. Strahlhorn
6. *Obnzothhorn* probably Oberrothorn²³
7. Adler pass
8. Grand Combier
9. Triftjoch
10. Valpellini Pass and Tête Blanche
11. Col du Géant, several times
12. Direct descent from Dent du Géant to Courmayeur
13. Direct descent from summit of Cima di Jazi²⁴ to Macugnaga
14. Col d'Hérens
15. Jungfrau
16. Etna, at Xmas
17. Vesuvius, 10 times during eruptions
18. Lesser Atlas Mountains²⁵
19. Lebanon²⁶
20. Mount Washington (U.S.)
21. Pedro, Ceylon²⁷
22. Sendakpho, Darjeeling²⁸. 11929 ft²⁹
23. Dainkund, Dalhousie³⁰. 9150 ft

²³ The Oberrothorn is a mountain of the Swiss Pennine Alps, overlooking Zermatt in the canton of Valais

²⁴ The Cima di Jazzi (English: Jazzi Peak) is a mountain of the Pennine Alps, located on the Swiss-Italian border, just north of Monte Rosa. It overlooks Macugnaga on its east (Italian) side.

²⁵ Located in southwest Morocco, the Anti-Atlas Mountains stretch for more than 180 miles, ranging from the Atlantic beaches to the desert. Three cities forming a triangle—Taraoudant, Tafraoute and Tiznit—serve as jumping-off points for mountain exploration. "Anti-Atlas" means "Lesser Atlas."

²⁶ Mount Lebanon is a mountain range in Lebanon. It averages above 2,500 metres (8,200 ft) in elevation. The Mount Lebanon range extends along the entire country for about 170 km (110 mi), parallel to the Mediterranean coast. Their highest peak is Qurnat as Sawda', at 3,088 m (10,131 ft). The range receives a substantial amount of precipitation, including snow, which averages around four meters deep.

²⁷ Pidurutalagala (Straw Plateau Rock), or Mount Pedro in English, is an ultra prominent peak, and the tallest mountain in Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon), at 2,524 m (8,281 ft). Mount Pedro is located close to the city of Nuwara Eliya, and is easily visible from most areas of the Central Province. It is situated North-North-East from the town of Nuwara Eliya.

²⁸ Sandakphu or Sandakfu or Sandakpur (3636 m; 11,941 ft) is the highest peak in the state of West Bengal, India. It is the highest point of the Singalila Ridge in Darjeeling district on the West Bengal-Nepal border. The peak is located at the edge of the Singalila National Park and has a small village on the summit with a few hostels. Four of the five highest peaks in the world, Everest, Kangchenjunga, Lhotse and Makalu can be seen from its summit.

²⁹ Note Sidney's height for the peak, 11,929 compared to its modern measurement of 11,941 ft.

24. Pike's Peak in Marshall Park³¹, 14336
25. Uspallata Pass, Andes³² 12654
26. Oroya Pass³³, 15665
27. Puns to Aseguiga 14666 (*not identified, MB 2015*)
28. Tagliaferro, Alaqua³⁴ 9741

³⁰ Dainkund Peak is at an altitude of 2755 meters, the supreme mount in Dalhousie near Himachal Pradesh, India

³¹ Colorado, U.S.

³² The Uspallata Pass, Bermejo Pass or Cumbre Pass, is an Andean pass which provides a route between the wine-growing region around the Argentine city of Mendoza, the Chilean city Los Andes and Santiago the Chilean capital situated in the central Chilean valley. Reaching a maximum elevation of about 3,810 m (12,500 ft), the pass runs between the peaks of the 6,962 m (22,841 ft) Aconcagua to the north and the 6,570 m (21,555 ft) Tupungato to the south. Today, the Uspallata Pass provides a major transportation link between Chile and Argentina and a railroad tunnel built by the now defunct Transandine Railway (1910–1982) runs underneath. The Pan-American Highway runs through the nearby Cristo Redentor Tunnel (in Spanish: Paso Internacional Cristo Redentor) and a monument, Christ the Redeemer of the Andes ("Cristo Redentor de los Andes" in Spanish) is located at the pass.

³³ Probably the El Ticlio Pass, before the railway was built. La Oroya is a city of about 33,000 people on the River Mantaro in central Peru. It is situated on the Altiplano some 176 km east-north-east of the national capital, Lima, and is capital of the Yauli Province. La Oroya is the location of a smelting operation that earned the town a place on the Blacksmith Institute's 2007 report, "The World's Worst Polluted Places". Mining in the area developed gradually, and did not greatly expand until the railway from Lima to La Oroya was completed in 1893. The railway, an extraordinary feat of engineering, was planned by the Polish railway builder Ernest Malinowski, and crosses the El Ticlio Pass, where it reaches an altitude of 4781 meters. Until the recent completion of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway it was the highest standard gauge railway in the world.

³⁴ Monte Tagliaferro is a mountain of the Pennine Alps. It is one of the most popular hiking destination of Valsesia in Italy. The easiest route for the summit starts from Rima San Giuseppe and reaches the summit passing through Vallarolo pass (2,332 m).

1861 census				
Parish of Lambeth	StPaul's Buxton		Borough of Lambeth	Village of Dulwich
Home holder's registration number 47				
Herne Hill				
Elhanan Bicknell	Head	62	Married Shipowner and merchant	Surrey, Southwark
Ada Bicknell	Daughter	19	Single	ditto, Lambeth
Matilda Bicknell	Daughter	12	Single Scholar at home	ditto
Lucinda Bicknell	Daughter	10	Single Scholar at home	ditto
Clarence Bicknell	Son	8	Single Scholar at home	ditto

Unrelated quote from The Horsemeat Cookbook by Chris Windle

Feb 6 1868 was supposed to be the day that horsemeat took its place alongside beef and pork in Britain's culinary consciousness. The scene was set. MPs, doctors, journalists and scientists – the decision makers and opinion formers of the day – had gathered at London's Langham Hotel for a Banquet Hippophagique. Or, as others termed it, the Great Horse Dinner.

The Victorian traveller and antiquarian Algernon Sidney Bicknell was the brains behind the operation. Against the background of the recent foot-and-mouth outbreak and malnutrition among London's poor, Bicknell was convinced the time was right to launch this cheap yet healthy wonder meat on the nation. He was wrong...

https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=kj1hq5pe2bUC&pg=PT12&lpg=PT12&dq=algeron+sidney+bicknell&source=bl&ots=mhT-ZQI0bD&sig=TAgszmzS4VKDIQsj3d-V6Gme1TXo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwitwtqMk_PJAhXDWhQKHZIIIBFYQ6AEIRDAI#v=onepage&q=algeron%20sidney%20bicknell&f=false

If Sid was named after Algernon Sidney (the theoretical republican executed for alleged conspiracy against Charles I), then note that the latter's name is sometime spelt with a "y". Bicknell is however spelt with an "i". If "Sidney" has crept in it's probably my fault. MB