

The
D i a r y
of
T h o m a s

W I L S H E R E

of Near-the-Bridge,
M E L K S H A M,
Wilts.

1 8 4 1

Extracts edited and transcribed from the original
by

J.E.O. Wilshere.

May 1 9 6 6

THE DIARY OF THOMAS WILSHERE.

The diary, from which these edited transcripts have been extracted covers the period 20th. April to 24th May and 2nd July to 21st August 1841. The original MS. runs to more than 40,000 words and was kept in two plain paged exercise books with additional pages sewn in. All 88 of these pages are closely packed, some of the ink has faded and the writing is often bad but most is fairly easily readable.

The present transcripts represent about an eighth of the original; much matter, particularly an obsession with the Baptist faith and prayer-meetings is of little present-day interest and of trifling significance, and has therefore been largely ignored.

A little punctuation has been added but some is original. Disjointed phrases have largely been left without punctuation. The spelling is unamended.

Thomas Wilshere (1823-91) was the eldest child of Thomas (1790-1830) and Rebecca (1789-1867) (nee Butler) Wilshere. Thomas Senior is described variously as a Farm labourer or Farm Servant. In the 1841 Census Thomas Junior is described as a Clothdresser, and the present diary contains a description of his dismissal from this employment. After some years as a schoolmaster, he became a Baptist Minister in 1848, but finding his stipend insufficient to support a large and growing family he entered the commercial world, in time combining (in Leicester) the professions of Stock and Share Broker, Insurance District Inspector, Accountant and Mortgage Broker. He returned to the Baptist Ministry as Honorary Pastor of Oakby Baptist Church from 1870-91, thereby working a seven-day week.

Thomas Wilshere's brother, William (1825-76) became a Master Tailor in Stroud, Gloucs, and his sister, Mary Ann (1826-64) was in service in Gloucestershire. Both died from consumption.

May, 1966

J.E.O.W.

Tuesday 20th.
(April)

"I have some thoughts about this writing. I cannot see much good in it sometimes, at other times I see more but I do not improve so much as I might if I only wrote when I had sufficient time to do it well but I have not time now so that I am in a hurry. I want a desk and a great many other things & then I think there would be more improvement in my writing but what else. Do I want more determination, more resolution to embrace self-culture? I seem to be gained (sic) ground in my affection ... Thought of leaving England if opportunity offersd... temporal affairs rather discouraging it is Spring and new clothes seem to be wanted.

Wed. 21st.

I think of A.S. every day, sometimes with pleasure & hopes her will be mine, at other times with feelings different. She is a teetotaler.... this morning I must invent some amusement in lieu of beer.

Thurs. 22nd.

Heard last night that a young gentleman, a relation of my master is to be baptised with me. I do not feel very much pleased at it not grieved. two cannot walk together except they be agreed but A.S. & I walk together & agree. Is this right, do we not keep each our very thoughts & opinions & decernbles ... I want to alter this. Do not expect to live long without some shyness some little vexation on one side or other.

Friday 23rd.

I have the greater part of this day been in a good frame of mind in a spiritual one elevated above this world and its trifling pursuits and meditating upon and indulging in thoughts of yonder world where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. But ere the day had closed I found something to mar my peace, to destroy it and to ruffle and unsettle my mind... Yes, I am still full of corruption and His works.

Saturday
24th.

.... I am constrained to say how rapid does time fly away.

Sunday 25th.

My passage to the waters' tomb is not to be calm unruffled and smooth before leaving home Mo^r & I came to high words, to bad tempers & wrong feelings but we soon forgave.... O Lord.... fix me firmer on that rock so that the gates of hell shall not prevail against me.

Monday 26th.

Yesterday was the sabbath of the Lord and we are commanded to keep such days holy, but if alas, I cannot keep it holy according to the views I have of holiness my conduct on that day brought a sting of conscience, for it.

- Tuesday 27th. I know by experience I am far from being perfect ... I went to bed with a heavy heart. I walked out to see J.S. fell into company as usual & felt the sting of conscience for it.
- Wednesday 28th. I have been in a state of mind which I cannot describe . Whether to call it mental dejection, sorrow for sin or by some other phrase I hardly know a low unfeeling state of mind dead & lifeless...no spirit cast down but not forsaken for I was taught & helped to pray. With the ordinance of baptism so close as it were to me I should have thought my mind would be dwelling more upon it.... but still I hope for more light & life. Saw A.S. but do not feel much for her, doubts about our associating together.
- Thursday 29th. I cannot fix my mind on that sacred ordinance to which I have soon to attend. Thought about writing views on baptism to show Mr. R. selected with the help of my concordance.
- Friday 30th. The first day & the last day of the month arrive without being much noticed by me, this is the last day but how little have I appreciated or felt it. Saw & walked with A.S. but do not feel so much attached to her, indeed I feel some scruples & stings about it have heard other opinions on the subject do not approve regret ever forming one but hope good result from it.
- Saturday (May) 1st Well another month has made its appearance & now what shall I say... the expectation that ere this month closes I shall be numbered with Christ's people but let me beware for I have more need of self-abasement & contrition than of self-congratulation.
- Sunday 2nd Well I have now attended to the ordinance of God's house, I have been baptised & I have too partook of the Lord's supper, after receiving some suitable advice & instruction were admitted as members in the church of Christ at Melksham.
- Tuesday 4th I have written letters to J.D. & S.L. referred to my baptism in both, but question whether the one to S.L. will be received (sic) or not in the spirit I sent it..... She is in my opinion a very good natured & amiable (in many respects) girl but she is in a very dangerous place now under the curse of the almighty & held as it were by a very weak thread from falling into the pit of destruction. Went down to Mr.R. saw him & truly I can say he is my beloved pastor. Miss J. appears to me a lovely & almost captivating young woman, but my connection with AS fear lest be rejected & another fear lest it would inquire me in my intellectual or moral or spiritual improvement defer me from declaring by my action that I love her. Several times her person has stood before

my imagination, it has in a certain sense haunted me & drawn from me a smile. Our esteemed minister gave me some tracts & we were rather free and sociable talked about the uncultivated state of Red Stocks or rather its inhabitants - I was pleased with our conversation & carried off the tracts as a booty for want of more self-criticism & a better understanding of etiquette. I lose much pleasure & render myself somewhat odious.

Wednesday. Very little of any-thing to disturb or molest me. Stayed at 5th home in what I am wont to call my study writing essay on B-a. (i.e. Baptism). The thought of being in a study struck me I would if I could have one with more conveniences than I have now. A bedroom containing all the noxious effluvia escheated by us through the night - it is both disagreeable & unhealthy but I want more than this - determination, a resolution a fixed purpose & improvement by a fixed plan. But the days pass away rapidly and I feel dissatisfied when I look back upon my proceedings I attended the Wesleyan Missionary Meeting this evening.

Friday 7th. Before breakfast wrote & read and intended to write a short essay on the goodness of God but time has been occupied somehow else over my taking round the petition for signature for the extension of church rates. Got a gd many but some refused. I was rather hurt & felt displeased at Mr. R's requesting me to take it to the forest, however I took it in the wet & dirt. When I came back, contrary to expectation he rewarded me handsomely. I did not expect anything and I felt it a pleasure to do so, but took up more time than I expected, because I believe it to be an imposition of great injustice. The rates are not voluntary therefore not acceptable to God - it is just the same principle that made them burn men once as....now they will imprison them that will not pay. Will not God support his own cause, yes he will & I believe if the establishment is God's house he will incline the hearts of men to support it, but we pray it may fall unless men are willing to keep it up.

Saturday 8th. This is truly a world of doubt trouble and sorrow and this sorrow & affliction often arises from a ~~want~~ want of watchfulness & prayer and from a want of dependence on God. I fell out with my brother about a most trifling circumstance. Oh what shall I say, what shall I do!

Sunday 9th. This is the Sabbath of the Lord, in it thou shalt do no work, thou nor thy servant. Remember it to keep it holy but I will not presume to say I have kept it holy ... all day save at short intervals for meals I have been engaged yet I must confess that some of my time has run to waste went to school taught both morning and afternoon & felt too what I said from the ll of John. Spoke of Lazarus' resurrection as an emblem of general resurrection.

- Monday 10th. The spirit that was kindled or that was called into exercise yesterday has been with me through the day viz: a spirit of benevolence towards others, a kind & tender feeling and a desire for improvement & usefulness..... Attended the prayer meeting few males there goodly number of females. O surely we are asleep of the male sex & females are more awake!
- Tuesday 11th. I have had some very impressive vivid and humbling ideas respecting the conviction of a sinner.... dwelt particularly on the 13 of John 13 verse. Intend to write a little on it.
- Wednesday 12th. For the first time, 4 of us met in the vestry for the purpose of deciding about our meeting.....
- Thursday 13th. An unprofitable servant alas I am: I have this day done what I ought not also left undone that I ought to have done I feel the want of a more serious contemplative & studious turn of mind.
- Friday 14th. Last night Mr. Rodney(?) preached in our schoolroom from the 119th Psalm & the 117 verse. I mention the text because he made such an excellent discourse from it. 'Hold thou me up & I shall be safe.'
- Saturday 15th. 'O Lord how full of sin & corruption I am.' ... Went into potato ground, worked a little, came home, wrote a little but did not feel so much at liberty as I wanted to be. I am still in a strait.... I want to be free from female companions because it has made some speak disrespectful of me and because I believe the friends of Christ are afraid & jealous of me lest I fall & bring disgrace on the cause & because I believe it is detrimental to my growth in knowledge & grace. One companion of the female sex is now rather displeased, but so many I make free with
- Sunday 16th. I left my bed early got ready and went to the prayer meeting... after coming home to breakfast I went to school ... I made a very short & ill-arranged prayer.... I have certainly thought too much of myself my want of cultivation and knowledge and mourn over my folly in past days.... how much more might I have known & how much less might I have had to tempt me ... had I not rushed into an acquaintance of the female sex. This day however I have commenced a course I trust of usefulness.
- Tuesday 18th. What shall I say - I will say that God is a merciful, compassionate & good god, that he deserves to be praised for he has kept and preserved me Heard Mr. Harris

say a few words at the Forest chapel this evening.

Wednesday
19th. Twelve months ago today Mrs. Russell the useful & beloved wife of our Pastor met her melancholy fate, melancholy indeed to us though not to her. Yes it is a melancholy & distressing feeling which will now steal over us some times.

Thursday
20th. He that is good kind and ~~XXXXXXXX~~ merciful has spared me another day and I have spent it I think in a middling way it seems that the sins of my youth have been aroused & brought to stand before me I shall never get to heaven unless God takes me there of his sovereign grace & mercy.

Friday
21st. I had the toothache yesterday and so I have today I look upon it more as the work of God & though sometimes I am ready to cry out 'O Lord remove this pain. Why does thou thus afflict me.' It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man If I am but a finger or a finger nail on the body of Christ I shall be content.

Saturday
22nd. The last day of the week.... I am constrained to say that goodness & mercy have followed me through it and this day have I had what I may call a special interposition (sic) in my behalf. O blessed be his name, he deserves to be praised! I was nearly under a large strap which drives the cutting shop. It carried me along some distance and when almost close to the drum round which it runs it threw me of so that it was a remarkable deliverance but when I was in danger when I expected to be hurt a great deal more than I was if not killed... I felt an assurance that it was the Lord's doing: 'Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, I am willing to go with thee and to be laid on a bed of pain.'

(+ Note: Nearly fifty years later, these words were the last words of ^{his} final sermon preached at Oadby (Leics) Baptist Church, a few days ~~before~~ his death.)

Sunday
23rd. Our dear minister once told me he hoped I should not be a sleepy professor and to-day I have thought upon this.

Monday
24th. I have felt the risings of pride and corruption. Yesterday & for several days I have been declining in my affection towards A.S. and thought about forsaking her and not have any female companion, to banish such thought from my mind to deny myself and to devote my time in my master service but to-day I have yielded a little though not spoke to her. I hardly know how to proceed partly afraid to ask God's direction lest I should feel it my duty to have her. She is too young in her manners if not in age, she is too thoughtless, she thinks too much about clothes. Yesterday dressed very smart turned me against her..... My youth, my low circumstances, my inconsistent conduct. I do not count so uprightly in the sight of God, am

not faithful enough to him nor do I feel enough the value of souls.

.....

Friday,
July 2nd. Last night ought to be remembered by me all my life
.....it was the first time I had the honour of hearing the
statement made by candidates for baptism the first
time I had the honour of being present at a meeting of the
Church of Christ on such subject.

Sunday,
4th. This is the day that Jesus rose ^{so} early from the dead. Why
should I keep my eyelids closed and waste my hours in bed
agreeable to the sentiment,.... I rose early & went to the
meeting house....

Monday
5th. Asked a little boy today what he would tell God when He
asked him why he broke the paper on which was printed
thoughts connected with religion... The boy did not know.

Tuesday
6th. I have often thought about thinking before speaking but
I am too much like too many others I should think
twice before I speak once because words (I have seen somewhere)
are like arrows & should not be shot at random. Think twice!
1. What am I going to say. 2. What effect & influence
will it have on others. Shall I say what I wish to say and
will it prove beneficial or injurious to my character and my
hearers.

Thursday,
8th. This day like most has been a mixture of good and evil....

Monday,
12th. Been upset though very little with the misrepresentations
of my shopmates..... but perhaps I noticed it too hastily.

Tuesday,
13th. Tonight I with my mother and brother were out. They had
left the key though not in the same place as usual so that
I could not find it and was obliged to stand about the street
which made me uneasy. After coming home we all began to
condemn each other in an infuriated manner.

Wednesday,
21st. Read Jeremiah to-day see in it the threatenings of
LXXIII. God against those who forsook & remained impenitent & his
offer of pardon to the penitent

Saturday,
24th. To-day is as other days some good & evil mixed together.

Sunday,
25th. An uniformity of feeling for any length of time do not
seem to belong to me, changing & altering more or less every
hour. Is it proof of my indecision & weakness of mind or
does it belong to all persons? I was disturbed, the calm
surface of my mind was ruffled and like a tempestuous sea

it was unsettled so that I could not sleep much.

Saturday, 31st. The month too is ended; I forget that. However, I would thank the preserver of men & beseech him to preserve me still.

Sunday, (August) 1st. Thanks be unto God for the institution of the sabbath and for the means of grace... told my scholars today the sabbath was like a walking stick to help persons to heaven, the way to *
Monday, 2nd. Thought upon what some say viz. we should spend every day as it were our last Were it my last I must look back and fall.

Line omitted: hell is broad ... it is very easy to go to hell....

Tuesday, 3rd. The first thing which demand notice here is that I am thrown out of employment owing to (I think) different causes though the primary one was the steam was kept going to drive the stocks, a cloth swung on the brushwire together the strap that drives not being off properly; it ran on down the brushes & the cloth skipped along one side which damaged it very much. I was charged with it and threatened to be made pay all expenses. I did not like it very much but was not angry only I thought they shall know I have a tongue so I enquired why I was to pay for it. Because it was my place to look after the boys they said ... the man that talked so he is no christian either by profession or practice.... I am a human being as well as he. O Lord, thou knowest I desire to acknowledge my fault if I am wrong

Wednesday, 4th. Just eleven years ago my father died but it has not occupied my mind much to-day. there is a great stir in the neighbourhood, many have spoken and I am advised to seek admittance again into the factory; till I can do something more profitable I think I must however. Spent the morning at home in bed & reading both before and after breakfast and felt an uneasy sensation at the pit of the stomach for want of recreation or exercise and due to bending over books. Took a walk for the purpose of removing it & part succeeded.

If I am to endure poverty, O gracious Lord, give me courage fortitude, presence of mind to endure it patiently but if it be thy blessed will open a door for my escape from the horror of horrors & starvation.

Thursday, 5th. O what a world this is, here we shall never be satisfied. ... In the first place I stayed in bed too long & second I spent too much time in Trowbridge.... Some want to go (to Jamaica) and say they will if anyone will send them. I too have thought about it but not very seriously though they may become so ere long..... I feel some attachment to this little village & its inhabitants a struggle must ensue if I make up my mind to go..... I sought admittance into the factory again.

Saturday
7th.

8.

Dissatisfaction & uneasiness on account of folly committed by me through J.S. who might have prevented it & indeed I was surprised too to see him in such a state. I am now without much prospectbut I hope still something will turn up.

Sunday,
8th.

I have been favoured with another sabbath.... what is the sabbath but the means of grace instituted for the purpose of advancing christians on the way to glory.

Monday,
9th.

I find consolation from the examples given in Holy writ of man being in the depth of poverty. I trust like Job I shall not charge God foolishly I want to have an appearance that I am one of God's children, that he is my father....

Tuesday,
10th

What use is it for the hand to work without the feet & the body what use is it to have one part well unless all parts are.... but if all are strong & healthy then they can unite & perform a good deal of work. ... I have much to write in this small space, this is the last book for some time having no money & no prospect of getting any..... I am not cast down.

Thursday,
12th.

Having a desire to record a little more... I have made this paper into a book, though at present I have no expectation of getting any more. I trust to Jehovah he has kept me nearly 18 years but I have never perhaps felt it so much for we are so apt to forget this fact when enjoying the comfort or necessaries or when indulging pleasing prospect. ... 'Time is my estate' said a philosopher - take care of the pence & pounds will take care of themselves, so we say take care of minutes & hours will take care of themselves..... Forward should be your motto ... It is one thing to write free from positive inaccuracies & another to write gd. english..... Novels are one kind .. and who would talk with a novelist when he might hold converse with a Milton or a Locke ... If great authors be too extensive get an bridgement, beware of bad ones for just as good ones give a health tonic bad ones give a sickley & weak one to the mind.... In lecturing we must keep pace with the lecturer but in reading take our time..... Dreamt last night about half a crown & about a chain & fish. I am not going to attach any importance to them but must mention it as a matter of course.... Paid a visit to our beloved pastor... our attention were directed to my temporal affairs - he is a kindhearted man & he sympathises with me. He cares not only for spiritual state but temporal too.... gave me 3 shillings though I hardly know what to say about this.

Friday,
13th.

Rose about the usual hour which is this week... between

7 & 8 but I am not quite satisfied that I should stay in bed so long. What a bad habit you are forming has more than once reverberated in my ear..... Have been out most of the day in a village called Corsham to see my cousin....

Saturday,
14th. Two instances of sudden death have occurred during this week, one in the beginning, the other to-day. T. Sn. who preached twice last Sabbath & to-day one of my sisters in cometh. 'O that I may be ready whenever the messenger with tears in my eyes I exclaimed 'How hard it is that I am obliged to suffer for want which to all appearance seems to be my lot.' He moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform. I trust he will perform his wonders on me.

Monday,
16th. My scholars yesterday were not so good as they might have been but I hardly know what the cause of it is... I thought probably the hand of the Lord is in this... Some people talk about not letting children sing 'My God, My father' because they cannot do it experimentally but in the same places of worship where persons holding such sentiments there is a choir of singers to lead the devotional part called praise..... JS has promised to take me in again.

Tuesday,
17th. Left home today about 10 A.M. walked to Trowbridge & after taking a little refreshment in the house of a friend, I proceeded from thence to Frome, a manufacturing district in Somerset to visit a cousin; with some difficulty I found the house where they lived & was hospitably received.... I confess a feeling of mortification stole over me when I saw them partake of their food & retire to rest without looking at the will of our creator or acknowledging His goodness.

Wednesday,
18th. Slept in Frome & stayed there most of the time with A.W.'s cousin but I walked about a little. We went to Charkit & there I saw a number of people intent upon providing for the gratification of their bodies ... here were some engaged in the worship of Jehovah at least I profess sin for the doors of the old parish meeting house were open and some had entered.... to exercise their vocal powers in repeating after the clerk the lessons of the day. I went in but my object was chiefly to see the building though I should like to have heard the whole service. However, after seeing one end I went to the other & there saw what I do not recollect ever seeing before which was a man clothed in a white gown another dressed in black and another in a coat with yellow buttons on it, on his right hand & on his left two women one of whom was holding in her arms a child..... After going through a certain routine the

man in white began to interrogate the woman & the man with yellow buttons then took from the woman ^{a little} & holding ⁱⁿ in one arm he took from a large round bason a small one of water & then dipped his hand in; he sprinkled the little child and said her name must be called Elizabeth. This they called Baptism.....

In the afternoon I went to the National Schoolroom, the master invited me in I entered & stayed with him until the school was over. I was pleased to find that they (i.e. the scholars) were getting on well & that the schoolmaster was so sociable & familiar though I never seen him or he ~~know~~ me before. He has been a teacher 16 years & he teaches them Geography, arithmetic and history besides writing & reading - a most excellent school at so low a price..... This evening went to Rook Lane Chapel. (* as in the original)

Thursday I do not wish to cram last conclusions from my observation or experience but if I may be allowed to draw any now it will be 19th. some good & some bad. 1. I think the county is in a bad state trule bad, where I go I noticed that manufactory seemed to be the principal occupation of the people of frome but that is very dull. 2. The county in a bad moral state.... I can congratulate myself that the grace of God has been efficacious in preserving me from moral pollution..... Walked with A.S. in a very affectionate manner after returning.

Friday My mother after being bled felt faint asked me to call some one & went but while I was going she swooned & fell & upset 20th. the tea table, cut her head with broken earthenware & was taken up senseless. Many have been to see her so that I have been kept in pretty good spirits....

Saturday I have been thinking that I am improved both bodily & intellectually by my short visit. I made so much observation 21st. as possible & I endeavoured to acquire knowledge & to communicate it too..... I wish I was going to college or somewhere to London more Full richness of character some times yet am inclined to give way to ease & contentment & become careless about its awful consequences....

Transcript of a letter from Thomas Wilshere to 'Mr.' John Deverill
at Mr. Charles Deverall's, Silk Street, Milton Street, London.
.....

Melksham June 20th 1840.

Dear friend

Again I take the opportunity of taking my pen & paper and
addressing myself to you for in so doing I feel a pleasure I acknowledge
the receipt of your letter dated June the 7th which I received with joy
and was well pleased with its contents I hope this will find you in good
health as through the mercy & goodness of God I am at present. You
expressed a desire in your last to hear some particulars of Mrs. Russell's
funeral sermon I will just tell what I can remember but it will but (sic)
little as it is almost passed from my mind it was preached on Sunday
Morning May 1840 by her Brother Mr Freeman (Missionary from Madagascar)
from the 1 Psalm 3 last verses he gave us some particulars respecting her
life and character which was very pleasing she was a woman he said of no
ordinary talents she possessed a large share of learning, was acquainted
with nearly all the valuable authors in our own language and could read
in several others she was formerly a Governess, and sat under the
ministry of some Dr I forget the name in London to whom she owed her
conversion by the blessing of God. Mr Freeman read a letter which was
found among her papers addressed to this Minister by whose instrumentality
she was converted to the faith Mr. Hume I heard preached a funeral
sermon for her and Mr Pipp gave up service at his chapel that he and his
people might hear Mr Freeman Mr Maggs also improved the solemn event
Mr Russell preached in the afternoon at the forest Chapel and on the
next Sunday he preached twice and administered the ordinance Mr Freeman
while preaching the funeral sermon with the congregation was often
affected to tears this I think must suffice. Mr Russell preached three
times the next Sunday after the funeral sermon was preached and has
since been out of town he is now returned and preached yesterday 3 times
he seems much revived during his absence. In your last letter you have
made some mention of Mr Russell's brother. I should be obliged to you
to explain in your next what you mean has Mr. Russell a brother in
London and do you know him. I was glad to hear you was so well and
that you enjoyed your health as much as when in the country but I have
never heard any thing to the contrary from any one at the factory or
any one else. Alterations has taken place or will shortly at the factory
Mr Giblett is to leave this week at quarter day I believe he is going to
Trowbridge at Mr Clark the cause of his leaving I cannot ascertain
he had warning given him and since then he has not attended school or
Chapel at the Baptist chapel it sad proof of the reasons he had in
attending before it appears to me that he did it for gain B. Catley
I have heard has received warning and is to be put from the office of
foreman as soon as they can suit themselves one has been to offer but
his character would not do the trade is still bad and it now seems to
be blamed to (crossed out) Mr. B. Catly. I could say such more but paper
will not allow, therefore I must conclude, hoping soon to hear from you
that I may write again Accept my kind true and best respects with my best
wishes for your welfare whilst I remain yours most truly T. Wilshere

A post-script to this letter is included on a small slip which

reads:

"You spells the name Rebecca wrong I now send you on the other side the direction for Old T. Wilshere had one of the letters you sent carried to him but I had it.

Thomas Wilshere at Rebecca Wilshere Near the Bridge, Melksham, Wilts."

(Note: From the letters of John Devereil that survive, he seems to have spelt 'Rebecca' as 'Rouka'. The reason this letter of Thomas Wilshere's survives is that it was returned to him by the Dead Letter Office since he addressed it incorrectly, leaving out 'Street' after Milton, with the result that it was sent to Milton, Kent.
