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Text in square brackets may indicate the following:

- Misspellings, with the correct spelling in square brackets preceded by an asterisk rendersveu*[rendezvous]
- Tags for types of content [newspaper cutting]
- Spelled out abbreviations or short form words F[ield]. Nat[uralists]

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1893 Book No[Number] 31. Supplementary to No.[Number] 30 in which book see dates Feb[ruary] 4th &[and] 5th _____ Edgar R Waite The Museum Leeds. [1]

Our distance - record walk. - Sunday Feb[ruary]. 5. 1893 _____ W[illiam]. Denison Roebuck Edgar. R[avenswood]. Waite _____ [2]

[3]

1893 We had long planned to walk 50 miles in one day, and had on three previous occasions actually fixed the day. As to the district we were for sometime undecided whether to walk to Leeds from Ribbleshead or from Beverley each distance being about 50 miles. We decided upon Beverley, chiefly because the district [4]

[5]

was least known to us. The days upon which we were mutually at liberty turned out bad, and as my time in England was getting very short we essayed one more date &[and] were

favoured with very suitable weather. The date selected was Sunday. 5th. February and as the days at this season are not of great length we had to go somewhat into [6]

[7]

matters astronomical. On this date the sun was to - Rise 7.34 Set 4.56 so that we might expect to have more or less of daylight from about 6.45 am To about 5.40 pm. The moon was to rise at 10.22 on the previous night. South at 3.23 am Set at 9.21 am. It would be 18 days 11 hours old at noon and therefore 18 days 2 hours at Southing. If then we set off at about 4.0 am [8]

[9]

if fortunate, we should have moon- light until the day -light overwhelmed it, and about 5.40 pm we should be in darkness un- til arriving in Leeds. The Barometer was rising and the Temperature falling so that we might reasonably hope for at any rate moderately decent weather The main geological features will be mentioned as they occurred on our route - [10]

[11]

Feb.[ruary] 4. Sat.[urday] We left Leeds at 1.0 by a football excursion &[and] arrived at Hull about 3.0 where we were met by Fierke. The weather was fine and the glass rising, but not otherwise of extraordinary promise. After having edged our way through the numerous patrons of the Leeds team we sought Butterell but he had left his Office. The three of us then went to see Robinson, with him [12]

[13]

we had tea, Robinson Roebuck and Fierke transacted business and at 7.10 we left for Beverley. Roebuck and I met Butterell in the street and together we sought an Hotel where we might be allowed to rise about 4.0 in the morning (Sunday.) but without avail. At the 'Beverley Arms' we were told that the idea could not be entertained. At the King's Head, they had no one who could call us, notwithstanding [14]

[15]

that at both places we told them we should not require breakfast. It became evident that we must try some less imposing and independent establishment and our first attempt was pre-eminently successful. Butterell thought that a few beds were to be had at the Beverley Cocoa House, So thither I went. A tidy looking girl (of about ? Summers) behind the counter answered me that they had only [16]

[17]

[17]

one bed, and called her uncle, Blythe Esq[ui]re. as afterwards transpired. "Good evening Sir" said he rubbing his hands. He was a volatile little man of about Five feet nothing and a half, dressed in black and wearing a silk hat which to say the least seemed somewhat incongruous "This gentleman wants to know if he can two beds or a double bedded room." Very sorry Sir, we have neither, but we [18]

[19]

have one very large bed and if your friend - "Oh that's alright*[alright] but the main consideration with us is, can we go<t> out about 4. O'clock in the morning" "Certainly, Sir. Certainly." Will you look at the bed Sir" "Thank you I will see my friend" I then went for R[oebuck] and we returned to- gether. Our voluble friend on being told that we would not think of troubling [20]

[21]

him to prepare breakfast assured us that it was his business and his duty " my duty gentleman" Mind I do not want to force my breakfast down your throats but if you want break- fast gentleman you shall have it. and I think that if you are going for a long walk you will require it." We rejoined Butterell in the street having arranged to return to supper at 9-0 [22]

[23]

We went to Butterell's house and at the appointed time re- turned to the Cocoa House and to our silk hatted friend. Had a jolly good supper, a meeting of an Oddfellow's lodge being held in an adjoining room. We summoned the Silk hat and arranged to be called some time

between 3.30 and 4. and amid many more remarks about duty and business &[and]
business and duty we bid [24]

[25]

the owner (of the hat) a very good night. The fair damsel showed us our room by Candle explaining by the way that there was water in the gas pipe and the gas could not be lighted After wishing her a good night my first care was to light the gas which burned without a flicker. The plumber had evidently paid a visit- let us hope- unknown to "my niece". [26]

[27]

The bed was a big one and we were soon oblivious. Feb[ruary] 5. Sunday. I awoke (naturally!) my watch showed the hour of 3.0 I jumped out of bed to learn what the weather was, found it very frosty and the moon shining brightly. It being rather too early I returned but soon after - a knock and the silk-hatted voice - "A quarter past 3 gentlemen" "Right down by [28]

[29]

half past." This was a surprise we had [very unkindly] imagined that the man of promises might not be a man of performances but we were mistaken when we got down there was our friend and the silk hat too! T.T. Blythe Esq[ui]re. was as lively as ever and just the same. Always the same - evidently! Our breakfast was a good one. We gathered up the fragments that remained [30]

[31]

for future consideration and at 4.15 am promptly stepped into the market place under a beautiful moon, our steps sounding loudly over the cobble stones saluted a policeman passed through the Bar into Westwood turned to the left into the York Road and we on our way. Turning out of a warm bed at an early hour on a frosty morning in February is an experience calculated [32]

[33]

to make one step out and we soon left Beverley in the east. The moon was shining amid a multitude of stars in a clear sky &[and] although 4 days past its maximum and 1½ hours past

its Southing, had still considerable power this was reflected from the hoar frost which spangled everything and as we entered Beverley common numerous ice-clothed pools gave additional [34]

[35]

beauty to the scene. About a mile from the town we were passing the Race- Course on our right indistinguishable in the moonshine. We soon struck the cross roads we had noted on the map and a mile further entered the village of Bishop Burton. From a large pond on our left a party of unseen ducks set up a loud quacking at our disturbing tramp. The pond like every other piece [36]

[37]

of water was frozen over and a thrown pebble skidded over the glassy surface to the evident alarm of the Ducks judging by the increased quacking - 5 struck as we passed through the village and we halted a moment to inspect a pedestal sign, bearing a horse on one side, and "Albisidora"*[Altisidora] on the other, probably the name of some once famous local Race- horse. The district appeared to be [38]

[39]

well wooded with numerous hedgerows succeeded by fields of white. By 6.15 the moon was still brilliant but seemed somewhat watery &[and] the stars upon the horizon were clouded over. This condition increased until 6.45 when daylight began to creep up. Up to this point we had been travelling over the chalk which so far as could be seen was flat and comparatively uninteresting At 6.50 in the dim [40]

[41]

morning light, the Church tower, House Tops and chimneys of Market Weighton loomed in sight, on our right &[and] the outline of the Wolds became decernable*[discernible]. Here we crossed a narrow band of Red Chalk and a Blackbird &[and] directly afterwards a Robin heralded the rapidly spreading daylight. At 6.55 we reached the town and put our cards under Marshall's door Five minutes later we were stalking [42]

[43]

out, the moon being quite pale and the daylight suffusing the heavens. We now entered a tract of sand and gravel and at 7.15, a Thrush warbled forth. According to Whitaker at 7.34 the Sun rose, but this was by no means apparent. At 7.35 we came on to the head of one branch of the Market Weighton Canal, and as there did not appear to be any stream flowing into it, it was a question as to how [44]

[45]

the supply was maintained, we stayed here a few minutes, the scene being the most beautiful we had come in with, Here was a a clean looking Inn facing the Canal with the following sign [sketch] Post tenebras lucem A Great Tit and a Blue Tit here became evidence The road was now enclosed [46]

[47]

by hedgerows and occasional plantations. Flocks of Fieldfares, Redwings &[and] Chaffinches were picking in the field and rose in hundreds at our approach. At 7.55 we suddenly had a view of Holme Church very prominent on the Hill in front hitherto shaded by trees, we now saw Rook, Sparrow and Yellow-Bunting. and I saw a beautifully marked Blackbird, it had a perfect white ring round [48]

[49]

its neck, not a crescent like the Ring Ousel, it had also some white on its wings. At 8.10 we passed the Church of Holme on Spalding Moor near the site of the Holme Beacon, at at*[a] height of 150 feet, the road being only 50 feet above the sea. this had been our average height since starting Passed the Corner of the Park, with a frozen pond on our left, A wren [50]

[51]

rolled out his mar- vellously loud song and a Coal Tit was searching the firs in the grounds of the vicarage. 8.25 and we entered Holme village proper, of modern cottages &[and] a long straggling place. A <Carrion> Hooded Crow x. flew over and large flocks of starlings were flying about By 9.0 o'clock we were crossing the river Foulness, a dike fringed with Pollard

willows. We crossed the C. Cornix [52]

[53]

railway at Fogga- thorpe (level crossing) at 9 .10 and came across other flocks of Fieldfares. The road was very rough & told on the hips and feet, the frost showed no signs of going, Again we must consult Whita -ker who tells us that the moon sets at 9.21. We entered the village of Harlthorpe at 9.45 and here saw Missel Thrush Immense flocks of Rooks in the fields which all rose on [54]

[55]

our approach with the exception of a single individual who refused to be moved. A Bullfinch & Reed Bunting, we now saw and also large flocks of Chaffinches. At 10.8 we came across an Old milestone in a field marked "10 miles to Market Weighton 8 to Selby" and 7 minutes later arrived at Bubwith. It is a picturesque & antique looking place built chiefly of brick we now had the [56]

[57]

Derwent in view looking like a sea the water being 'out' and in some places 1½ miles wide, whereas the river proper hemmed in by big banks is by no means an imposing stream, gates, pens & other were floating about and the water was passing quickly under the Derwent Bridge, here we saw a milestone bearing the date 1793, and sat on the Bridge for a 'snack' but the Cold Cutting wind compelled us to move [58]

[59]

on and it was some time before we could regain our warmth. Left the Bridge at 10.30 & passed the ½d[pence] toll. Accentor modularis here. At 11.0 we arrived at North Duffield, the district appeared to be studded all over with Molehills, they were especially plentiful along the road-side just before entering Skipwith Common. 15 minutes later and we entered the common Saw Linnet and Carrion Crow. The pools were covered with ice Wh[ich] [60]

[61]

had disposed itself into curious more or less concentric ridges. it would appear as though the ridge was the last part in contact with the water & as the latter oozed away it remained with the ice at the ridges & became frozen. Across the common to the right was Skipwith Village and the Church very conspicuous. 14 Wild Geese species ? got up flew round & settled ¼ mile off The whole of the Common seems to be [62]

[63]

composed of hummocky grass & heather, and looked beautiful covered with hoar frost Brackens dried and withered were to be met with in large patches, Clumps of fir trees were growing scattered about and pools of water with Furze bushes completed the general aspect of the common which reached as far as could be seen and terminating with trees, on all the sky-lines, with the exception of an occasional [64]

½ Moon Inn 3.5 Sherburn. 3.30 } left d[itt]o 4.35 } Newthorpe. 5.10 Boot & Shoe. 5.30 Peckfield. 6.0 Garforth. 6.25 Whitkirk. 7.10 Halton. 7.25 Halton Br[idg]e 7.40 York Road 8.15 Leeds. 8.30 [65]

-ional horseman and one or two pedestrians we did not see a soul across this fine wild waste. By 11.50 we had reached a sign post about half-way across we now turned a little to the right our course being due west. Wren seen. In a rift in the clouds we saw the sun for an instant. On our entering a small coppice a field mouse hopped across the Sandy road moving more like a Jerboa than a commus mus. [66]

Beverley. 4.15 Bishop Burton 5.0 Market Weighton 6.50 } left d[itt]o 7.0 } Canal Head. 7.35 Holme Ch[urch] 8.10 Holme - 8.25 R[iver] Foulness. 9.0 Harlthorpe. 9.45 Bubwith. 10.15 Derwent. 10.30 N[orth] Duffield 11.0 Skipwith Com[mon] 11.15 Sign Post. 11.50 Riccall 12.20 Kelfield. 12.55 Cawood Br[idg]e 1.30 left d[itt]o 1.50 [67]

I could not identify the species at the distance. A batch of Tumuli on the right was marked "Dave's graves" on the map. We now had the sun again & the thinning out of the clouds gave good promise of more - Meadow Pipit - At 12.20 we reached Riccall station, our last stretch having been over Riccall Common which ad- joins that of Skip with, but unlike the latter is almost [68]

that after all our walk had come successfully 'off'. ----- The following are the approximate distances of the various places passed through and the time at which they were reached. but our aim was simply distance time being no object, yet we considered it wise to note it for our

guidance as to progression - [69]

wholly inclosed. We passed through the village which is trim and modern Riccall Church was passed at 12.30 &[and] the sun was now shining brightly. A Kestrel passed slowly in front of us and out of sight. The Ouse was now in view and at Wheel Hall we had to wheel round a considerable bend of it. The sun acting on the frozen roads was making them dirty, this increased [70]

make many notes had there been anything worth the noting. At 7.10 we passed Whitkirk Church, arrived at Halton at 7.25 Under Halton Bridge in ¼ hour later and at 8.15 entered York Road. Leeds. Another mile and we were into the heart of the town where we separated Roebuck to his house and I to Fallowfield We were both fairly well tired yet very pleased to think [71]

at every step and made walking somewhat difficult. Some huge*[huge] masts revealed themselves to be telegraph poles of great height to allow the ships to pass beneath them Kelfield was reached at 12.55. A prosperous village with flagged sidewalk, very nice after the awful roads. the Church is small Our next port was to be Cawood and in order to shorten the distance we foolishly took to the [72]

Roman Ridge "Ermine Street" - and at 5.30 passed the Boot and Shoe Inn. It was now becoming dark and we 'pegged' along as well as we could considering the bad roads and the state of our feet. Passed Peckfield at 6.0. We were now among the coal measures and walked under the Railway Bridge at Garforth at 6.25 It was now quite dark so could not [73]

river embankment which considering the slope, and the soft clayey nature of the ground was almost impassable The moles flourished here - where the ground was low they had entirely confined themselves to the bank, but further on where the path was much above the water they had burrowed into the [?]'s. Many traps had been set the majority of which had each a victim [74]

our painful feet this was by no means so certain. In half a mile according to the geological map we crossed a narrow band of the Middle Marls into Lower Magnesian. Found Redwing dead on the path &[and] partly eaten. At 4.56 the sun was to set, and at 5.10 we passed under the Railway Bridge at Newthorpe. After some further walking we crossed the old [75]

At 1.30 we reached Cawood Bridge and at an Inn had a Soda & milk, here we lost 20 minutes leaving at 1.50. I was much disappointed with Cawood, we now went along the Bishop Dike, being on Warp land, we left Bishop Wood on our left and passed the Half Moon Inn at 3.5. Sherburn Station was reached 15 minutes later & we now passed into the Permian tract Entered Sherburn 3.30 [76]

and arrived at the New Inn at 3.35. Here we decided to have our first rest after about a 38 miles tramp. We ordered tea, and then proceeded to wash our feet, to prick the blisters and plaster them up. Here we spent an hour leaving Sherburn at 4.35 for our walk to Leeds, we had now decided to go through although same miles back chiefly owing to [77]

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[Back cover]