

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00245-5 - Romilly's Cambridge Diary, 1832-42

Joseph Romilly

Excerpt

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PART I  
RESIDENT IN COLLEGE  
1832-7

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[More information](#)

## 1832

On 1 February 1832, after spending Christmas with his family at Dulwich, Joseph Romilly returned to Cambridge by the Star Coach and resumed his academic life. Apart from a brief reference on 6 February which suggests that he was not overburdened with teaching—'My 3 pupils all came today'—and an occasional mention of a College meeting or ceremony, his Diary at this time is mainly a record of his social doings.

*Tu. 7 February.* Dr Burrows dined in hall with me; after Comb[ination] he & Musg[rave] Peacock & Upton had coffee with me<sup>1</sup> & we then played 3 rubbers of Long Whist. Musgrave sat chatting till 12½.

*Wed. 8.* Walk with Lodge and Waud—Comb[ination] to meet Miller this day elected Miner[a]<sup>1</sup> Prof[essor]. To Pryme's soirée: Miss Pryme grown a bouncer, but scarcely a prime article: awfully ugly & awkw[ar]<sup>d</sup>—Play<sup>d</sup> Whist with that nasty young Gunning against Clarkson & Skrine.

*Sat. 11.* Comb[ination] room with Greenwood, Musgrave & c: made his rounds with Musgrave & his bulldogs<sup>2</sup>—Whist with Musgrave. . .

*Sun. 12.* Wrote to M & L.<sup>3</sup> Elliott's Sermon very sophistical: 1 day in 7 divinely app[ointe]<sup>d</sup>, but not necessarily Saturday.—Ten mile walk with Ouvry—Gave wine to J. Brown, Greenwood, Webster, Sedgwick, Thirlwall, Musgr[ave], G[eorge] P[eacock], Thorp & Rothman.—Greenwood staid till 9½ & got very drunk & told great lies about his ordering & paying for as a Freshman a dinner to 12 at Rose to wch not one came.—Sedg<sup>w</sup>[ick] & Thirlwall staid till 11½ & were very amusing.

*Mon. 13.* College Meeting for 4 hours:—compensated to College Serv[an]<sup>ts</sup> for doing away with X[ma]s boxes.—Comb[ination]—Tea & Cards with Townley Clarkson where met Skrine, M[aste]<sup>r</sup> of Downing, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Warrington (she a good humoured gambling Papist) he a dull Prot<sup>t</sup> Capt<sup>n</sup>—Miss Clarkson always addresses her Mother 'Dear':—Sounds rather silly:—pretty with a white skin & beautif. comp[lexio]<sup>n</sup>—Cholera at Rotherhithe & Southwark.

*Tu. 14.* Walk with Lodge: saw the trees felled in the Johnian Avenue<sup>4</sup>. . .

<sup>1</sup> Since 1830 Romilly had occupied G 1 and 2, a handsome set of rooms on the ground floor of the Great Court, now the Bursary.

<sup>2</sup> The name given to the Proctors' attendants at Oxford and Cambridge.

<sup>3</sup> Margaret and Lucy Romilly, the Diarist's sisters.

<sup>4</sup> I.e. the avenue of St John's College on the Backs. This was also one of Romilly's distractions on 17 February.

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[More information](#)

## FEBRUARY 1832

*Sat. 18.* Called with Shelford on the Miss Wilkins & the Skrines.—Comb[ination] room with T[homas] M[usgrave], Thirlwall, Barnes, J. P. H[igman] &c—then to the Camus<sup>1</sup> where I heard Aspull play charmingly & a dirty bald German sing detestably to the Guitar. . . . Then proctorising with T.M.: then a Snipe with Thirlwall. . . .

*Tu. 21.* Peter Ouvry & I had a walklet—Comb. room with V[ice] Master & Fisher—To a tea & Card party at Captain Warringtons where I met the Clarksons & Skrines: plaid Loo making a joint Stock with Miss S. & won 1<sup>s</sup> to the firm.

*Wed. 22.* Lodge & Shelford dined in hall with me.—Comb[inatio]<sup>n</sup>—Sedgw[ick] & Whewell disputed about *1 day in 7* & got angry—To the Tyroleon:<sup>2</sup> 2 young men & 2 young women: the women good, the men indiff[erent] sung 'mein Schatz ist ein Reiter'; 'Teppichkramer', 'Schweizerbue', 'God save G. Britains King' etc.

*Mon. 27.* To 2 pot house<sup>3</sup> with Lodge, being 14 miles walk. . . .

*Tu. 28.* Dined with Skrines & met G.P, G[eorge] A[dam] B[rown] M[aster] of D[ownin]g & Mrs. Frere, Dr & Mrs Haviland & M<sup>rs</sup> Thackeray—Aspull played in the Evening, & Lady Cotton & Miss Freres came & M<sup>rs</sup> Frere sang—Today called on a poor miserable Frenchwoman calling herself C[ounte]ss of Rochefoucault: had a visit from M<sup>r</sup> Stuart (a teacher of Languages) who accompanied me: instituted a Subs[cription] for her.—C[ounte]ss of Rochefoucault on seeing our great Court exclaimed 'Comme tout est propre!, personne ne fait ses nécessités aux coins de la Cour.'—On showing her Newton's Telescope she said 'La machine est Lourde mais il faut le pardonner, parceque c'etoit le temps des ténébres; à present c'est le temps des lumieres & on scait bien les construire'—She had been attached to Louis XVI's court: was 15 y<sup>rs</sup> at Baltimore: resided 3 y<sup>rs</sup> at Rome, bore the cross in the Jubilee procession, has been 2 y<sup>rs</sup> in England, is related to Talleyrand whom she hates & was a Chanoinesse wch requires 15 descents of nobility by Fath[er] & Mother.

At this time Romilly carefully recorded the monthly statement of his 'Cash Account' in the space provided on the right-hand page of *The Gentleman's Pocket Book for 1832*, which he used as his Diary for that year. The following account for February 1832 is a good example and shows, incidentally, what sums he won or lost at cards.

<sup>1</sup> A well-known Cambridge musical society.

<sup>2</sup> A concert given by Tyrolese minstrels.

<sup>3</sup> An inn on the St Neots Road, now a farmhouse.

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## FEBRUARY 1832

## CASH ACCOUNT

<i>Feb.</i>	RECEIVED			PAID		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1	Stage & Portorage	.	.	—	2	6
	Dinner at Belle Savage	.	.	—	3	2
	Clasp for Lucy	.	.	—	1	6
	Coachman	.	.	—	2	—
2	Haircutting	.	.	—	1	—
	Lav. Water	.	.	—	4	—
	Picture Frame	.	.	2	12	6
	Carriage of Candles	.	.	—	4	—
3	Stilton Cheese for Sophie	.	.	—	19	6
4	Female Pen <sup>y</sup>	.	.	1	1	—
	Bookbinding	.	.	—	3	6
6	Gardener	.	.	4	2	6
	Lent 1830 } L <sup>d</sup> St John	70	—	—	.	.
	Whewell—Easter 1830 }				.	.
	Gray (Painter)	.	.	—	4	6
7	Won at Whist	—	4	6	.	.
8	Subs to Phil. Read <sup>s</sup> Room	.	.	1	1	—
	Won at Whist	1	3	—	.	.
	Higman-Lockwood—£20					
	(lent to him)					
	Oct/30 } Ackers—63	146	—	—	.	.
	Lent & East/31 } Arabin—63				.	.
11	Encyc. Met. N <sup>o</sup> 33	.	.	—	16	6
	Subsc. for W. Sydney Walker	.	.	5	—	—
	Lost at Whist	.	.	2	2	—
13	Won at Cards	—	11	—	.	.
15	Church Miss <sup>y</sup>	.	.	1	1	—
	Favell (Painter)	.	.	—	1	—
	Armstrong (Tinman)	.	.	—	5	3
16	Won at Cards	3	—	—	.	.
18	Blairs Lectures	.	.	—	7	—
20	Chimney Sweep <sup>s</sup>	.	.	—	5	—
22	Tyrolese Minst <sup>ls</sup>	.	.	—	3	6
23	Gloves	.	.	—	2	6
24	Emma Lilly for T <sup>y</sup>	.	.	1	1	—
25	Parcel	.	.	—	—	4
	Lost at Whist	.	.	6	15	—
	Fly	.	.	—	7	—

## FEBRUARY—MARCH 1832

<i>Feb.</i>	RECEIVED			PAID		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
28				1	—	—
29				—	1	—
				—	5	—
				—	2	—
				—	7	—

*Thu. 1 March.* Walk solitary thro Cherry Hinton & Fulbourn into London road & back: 14 miles. . .

*Fri. 2.* Gave wine to P. Ouvry, Vizard, Gaussen, G. P, Adair, Sutton, W. P. Musgrave, Rothman, Locke King: they found it pleasant & staid till near 8: as for Vizard he has a wonderful swallow for Claret—Gave whist to G.A.B., G.P, Headly & J. P. Higman.

*Sun. 4.* Wrote to M & L. Heard a vile sermon of Dr. Battens in wch he consumed  $\frac{1}{2}$  h<sup>r</sup> to tell us that a Xn's life was a warfare: he has a thread of a voice & a bad manner.—Drank wine with Wood & met Thirlwall, Shelford, F. Grey, Cavendish, &c.—Supped with Rothman to meet Thirlwall & Waddington: very pleasant.

*Mon. 5.* Lodge dined in hall with me to honor Thorp's taking his seat as Dean.—Mr. Greenwood, Thirlwall & J.P.H. in good force & talked well—Staid till 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ : Then to M<sup>rs</sup> Frere's ball where were all the men & women of the County: plaid 7 rubbers & won them all<sup>2</sup>—Swore in T. M. Sen[ior] Fell[ow] Thorp S[enior] Dean Carus J[unior] Dean.

*Wed. 7.* Solitary stroll.—Received from Miss Lilleys a present of some doyleys—Comb[ination] room with Greenwood, T.M., J.P.H. & V[ice] Master—won a bottle of wine of T. Thorp from the spelling of Boccaccio:—Thorp omitted one of the latter c's.—Read Mitford.

*Fri. 9.* . . . Comb[ination] for 1 h<sup>r</sup> with Fisher, Greenwood, T.M. & G.P.—Acted S[enior] D[ean] in Chapel for Thorp who is gone to have a Tooth out—Gave whist to G.P, J.P.H, H.H.<sup>3</sup> & T.M.—staid til 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ !!! What a shame!

*Sat. 10.* Went to receive the Judges (Vaughan & Gurney) and to drink purest wine—Dined with G.P, & met Batten, Rose, Hughes, Shelford, Thirlwall, W[illiam] W[hewell] [?], Praed, Musgrave, &c &c to the tune of 17 it was very agreeable: away *by* 12 like decent folks.

<sup>1</sup> I.e. the University Library.

<sup>2</sup> Thereby gaining £3. 9s. od.

<sup>3</sup> Presumably Henry Parr Hamilton. Romilly lost £5 'at Cards' that evening.

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## MARCH 1832

*Sun. 11.* Drank Coffee with Whewell to meet Batten, Praed, M<sup>rs</sup> Airy & c—more Coffee at the Lodge to meet the Judges. Wrote to M & L.—Heard another vile sermon of Dr. Batten: he had better stay at Haileybury—solitary stroll—Comb[ination] Room. . .

In the latter part of the entry for 11 March Romilly recorded the event that was to be of such importance to his future career—the death of the University Registrar, W. Hustler, a Fellow of Jesus, who had held the office since 1816: ‘Tonight about 11 that amiable man W. Hustler died:—Chevallier, Shelford, Jones, Garnons, Willis and I are candidates for the Reg[istrar]y.’ In those days an aspirant for a University office had to canvass the electors to secure nomination as a candidate, and Romilly lost no time in going round the Colleges to solicit support, setting up an election Committee and persuading its members to write to the non-resident M.A.s to ask for their votes.

*Mon. 12.* Wrote to Blunt, Ord & c—Started a little after 8 called on our Master, Frere, & then Dr. Barnes: he told me I was 2½<sup>hs</sup> too late as Jones had been there in a Fly at 6 o’clock:—got Barnes 2<sup>d</sup> nom[inatio]n.—Called on the rest & Hailstone: . . .

*Tu. 13.* Went round St Johns, & c & c: very civilly received.—Dr. Procter (an old thief) said ‘if it depended on worth, you would be nominated already’.—Jones of Mag[dalene] & I went over to dine at Audley End: & there met Gen. Grosvenor & wife & one other man & wife: very pleasant:—left some of my ☉<sup>rs1</sup> for L[or]<sup>d</sup> B[raybrooke] to canvass for me:—back at 12 printed circulars & Cards.

*Wed. 14.* Finished the rest of the Colleges—Pryme dined in hall with me to meet Judge Gurney:—our Master with bad tact spoke against the Quaker Gurneys,—Pryme & all the world (except Sedgw. who is in Town & W.W. who is always busy) came to my Comm[itt]<sup>ee</sup>. Most kind Letter from Neville—none from Le Blanc he supports Shelf[or]<sup>d</sup>.

*Th. 15.* Today Frere promised to nominate me with Shelf[ord], Lamb d<sup>o</sup>:—think Graham quite certain tho he says nothing, but he shakes hands like my nominator.—G.P. did excellent service in my Commee in writing Letters—Send up a parcel every night by the mail.—Mill (alas!) defeated at Oxford in the Boden Sanscrit Election—Wilson 207; Mill 200—They made a rascally high and low Ch[urc]<sup>h</sup> question of it. . .

*Fri. 16.* . . . Poor Hustler buried today: G.P. & Shelf[ord] present at funeral—sent for by V[ice] Ch[ancellor] to tell us 23<sup>d</sup> was day of election; gave tea in my Commee room to Shelford—printed fresh ☉<sup>rs</sup> Today that amiable Dickes starts as Cand[idate].

<sup>1</sup> Circulars.

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*Sat. 17.* Think Shelford sure of being nominated: Jones (who is in town working) says he (Jones) is sure, & Chevallier runs no chance:—he knows nothing about it, for he reckons on Lamb's support who is dead against him.—they are trying to make a political question of it as if the Reg[istrar]<sup>y</sup> at his table can be Whig or Tory. Rec<sup>d</sup> very kind Letters from the B<sup>ps</sup> of London & Gloster & a civil humbugg<sup>e</sup> one from Goulburn who makes a party affair of it.

*Sun. 18.* Wrote to M & L & many more. . . Civil Letters from L<sup>d</sup> Lansdowne, L<sup>d</sup> Howick &c &c to whom I had written: charming one from Dawson & very good from Tory Morris.

*Mon. 19.* Think myself sure of 7 nominators viz. Trin, Magd; Down; Cai; Corp; Pet: & Xts:<sup>1</sup> cant make out that any body else has 7 sure.—Kings & Sidney both favorable—Set Townshend of Kings to use his father's influence with Barnes: he did so, but I believe Barnes was sure without.—Cholera at Ely.

*Tu. 20.* Pupils began again yesterday after week's holiday.—Blunt works with all his heart & soul for me in Town: nobody like him for friendship:—a grand electioneerer.—Waud here in his quiet way almost as good.

*Wed. 21.* The General Fast.<sup>2</sup>—To Chapel at 8; & St Mary's at 11 where Baines preached an indifferent & exaggerated sermon on the Cholera—In my solitary stroll to Paper Mills<sup>3</sup> met Shelford who had been doing duty at Ditton: walked very amicably back with him. Very fidgetty about Nom[inatio]<sup>n</sup>.

*Th. 22.* The day of nomination—In 1st Scrutiny Chevallier 9, Jones & R[omilly] 8, Shelford 7, Garnons 1: in 2<sup>d</sup> Cheval[ier] 10, R[omilly] 8, Shelf[ord] 7, Jones 6.—Sent off expresses in all directions: obliged to go round to all the M.A's again: Chev[allie]<sup>rs</sup> friends & self did:—My Committee working like horses—Xt, Trin, Mag, Dow, Corp, Caius, Pet, King's nom[inate]<sup>d</sup> me 1st Sc[rutin]<sup>y</sup>. In 2<sup>d</sup> Kings was exch[ange]<sup>d</sup> for Sidney.

N.B. That Queer Provost<sup>4</sup> nom[inate]<sup>d</sup> me & Jones in 1st Sc[rutin]<sup>y</sup> as large Colleges: in 2<sup>d</sup> he tried small ones, viz Chevallier & Shelford.

The following day was the day of the election. The final contest was between the two candidates who had secured most support on nomination day, namely Chevallier and Romilly. The voting concluded at 10 p.m. and the Diarist was victor with a majority of 40. The subsequent rejoicings in Trinity were prolonged until far into the morning of the 24th.

<sup>1</sup> Trinity, Magdalene, Downing, Gonville and Caius, Corpus Christi, Peterhouse and Christ's.

<sup>2</sup> A royal proclamation had ordered this day to be observed as one of fasting on account of the cholera epidemic.

<sup>3</sup> An area beyond the railway bridge on the Newmarket Road in which there used to be paper mills in the sixteenth century.

<sup>4</sup> I.e. the Provost of King's.

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*Fri. 23.* Very nervous work all the morning as I was only from 4 or 5 to 10 ahead, & thought they had a grand reserve of E. Anglians—At 3 I was 151; Chev[allie]<sup>r</sup> 134.—Began again at 7 & at 10 I was 233 & Ch[evallier] 193.—Grand supper in hall where Sedg[wick] was in the chair & very eloquent till 1½: I then in chair till 2½: & Thirlwall till 5½: Byam & Fisher were very drunk, & Solly Flood made an ass of himself by giving my uncles<sup>1</sup> Memory: today one continued round of eat<sup>s</sup> in my rooms. F. Dawson, Rolfe, Henry & c brkf<sup>d</sup> there—L<sup>d</sup> & L<sup>y</sup> Brayb[rooke], L<sup>d</sup> Cavendish, L<sup>d</sup> Wrio, Carter, Whitbr<sup>d</sup> & c & c lunched there: then Lax & daughter & Bell & c & c.—then Sir R. Ainslie, & son, M<sup>r</sup> Mansf<sup>d</sup>, John Grey, Cuth<sup>b</sup>, Wray & c & c dined there.<sup>2</sup>

*Sat. 24.* . . . Today distributed H[alf] Crowns to the 46 Trinity bed makers whom I paraded before Wray & Cuthb. & Drinkwater to their great amusement.—Met Simeon yesterday 'I shall not give you my vote: I have done so: & I never felt greater pleasure in my life'.—Chevallier stuck the notice of his Commee on S<sup>t</sup> Mary's side posts!!!..

Having entertained several of his chief supporters and said good-bye to his brother Cuthbert, the new Registry entered upon his duties. The first somewhat perfunctory mention of them occurs on 29 March.

*Th. 29.* A Congregation: Graces about Anatomy & Chemistry schools deferred.<sup>3</sup>—Had a fire in my Registry [*sic*] & worked with Rowe.<sup>4</sup>—Dined with that bore E. S. Pearce & met J.P.H, G.P, Headly, Tasker, Clark, & c: vile dinner with Pike as only Fish—To M<sup>rs</sup> Henslows where introd<sup>d</sup> to the dowager M<sup>rs</sup> H.

The next references are not until Monday, 2 April: 'Worked in my office at arranging papers'—and Thursday 5 April, when, after dinner, which in those days was about 4 p.m., Romilly recorded returning home and working with Rowe 'at Registry business'. This was perhaps in preparation for what he called his first 'grand field-day' the following morning when he had to take the fees of twenty-one M.A.s, who were 'incepting', and six B.A.s. He got 'thro the work very well, tho 2 or 3 vagabonds didn't pay till Senate House time'.

Meanwhile at a large party on 31 March the Regius Professor of Modern History, William Smyth, had 'sung his electioneering song' in honour of the new Registry, and at a soirée on 3 April at the Clarksons Romilly had been 'much

<sup>1</sup> I.e. Sir Samuel Romilly (1757–1818), the law reformer.

<sup>2</sup> Cuthbert was Romilly's brother, who, with his barrister friend John Wray, had come up for the occasion. The others were all supporters who had come to give their votes for Romilly.

<sup>3</sup> Graces are formal proposals or decrees put before the Senate. A Syndicate had recently reported in favour of erecting new buildings for the Anatomy and Chemistry Schools on a site in the Botanic Garden which was then situated to the east of Free School Lane.

<sup>4</sup> The Registry's Clerk. Romilly's office was, for the time being, the old Combination Room in the Old Court of King's College, which had been purchased by the University in 1829.

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Excerpt

[More information](#)

## APRIL 1832

fête as having given red & gold Poll Books to all the women', that is to say that he had presented them with finely bound copies of the official register of the votes given at his election as Registrary.

Meanwhile, too, another month's Cash Account had been entered. It included such items as £1 for 'Faggots', 1s. for 'Shoeribbon' and £1 to 'Polhampton (a Lunatic)'.

During the last week of term there were more memorable parties, including one given by the Diarist himself, and on 7 April Romilly made one of his rare references to a sporting event.

*Sat. 7 April.* Trinity challenged Univ[ersit]y in a boat race & won—: Dined with Gunning & met Musgrave, Lodge, Fred. Gunning, & Farmer Hemington (a sensible honest fellow)—Very pleasant; good Champagne, & oceans of excellent Port—then to a great soiree at Thirlwall's where were Marchesa,<sup>1</sup> Skrines & c & c—staid till 1—Stanhope, Campbell, F. Grey, & c sung: the latter the Dog's meat man capitally—M<sup>rs</sup> Clark & I give rival parties next Friday, so we had a good deal of fun in disputing whom we were to get—Campbell sung 'Deeper & deeper' for wch we all thought him an ass.

*Tu. 10.* Brkfasted with D<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Somerville (who live in Dick's rooms)<sup>2</sup>—Then Registrary work till dinner—Dined with J. P. Higman to meet Clark, Gunning, T.M., Currie, Barnes & Croft: excessively gay, but Currie got beastly drunk, & J.P.H. Maudlin drunk—Plaid whist: G.P, Sedg[wick] & Thirlwall came in from G.P's dinner to our finish.

*Th. 12.* Licensed 147 Publicans (or Victuallers)<sup>3</sup>—Comb[ination] room with Evans, G.P, J.P.H, Greenwood & Vice<sup>4</sup>—In a fly with G.P, T.M. & Thirlwall to the Obs[ervator]y to meet Somervilles & an Evening Party—T.M & G.P. came home with me & played whist till 2½!!

<sup>1</sup> I.e. the Marchesa di Spineto.

<sup>2</sup> Dr and Mrs Somerville had been invited to stay with the Airys, but, as the Observatory was rather far from the centre of Cambridge, it was decided that they should both be put up in Trinity in the rooms of Richard Sheepshanks, a Fellow who was away at the time. This was indeed, as Mrs Somerville remarked in her *Personal Recollections*, 'an unusual favour where a lady is concerned'. The arrangements were made by Sedgwick, who, in a delightful letter to Dr Somerville, wrote as follows: 'A four-poster bed (now a thing utterly out of our regular monastic system) will rear its head for you and Madame in the chamber immediately below my own; and your handmaid may safely rest her bones in a small inner chamber. Should Sheepshanks return we can stuff him into a lumber room of the observatory; but of this there is no fear...' (*Personal Recollections from early life to old age, of Mary Somerville...* by her daughter Martha Somerville London, 1873, p. 180).

<sup>3</sup> All Cambridge inns had to obtain the Vice-Chancellor's licence. The publicans of each parish, in alphabetical order by parishes, were called in according to a list prepared beforehand at the Law Schools. All those intending to apply for licences had been required 'to signify their Names, and the Names of their Sureties, to John Crouch, Yeoman Bedell' on or before the 10th.

<sup>4</sup> I.e. the Vice-Master.

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## APRIL 1832

*Fri. 13.* V[ice] Ch[ancellor]<sup>r1</sup> dismissed the Term & absolved us from all academic peccadilloes—Dined with the Clarks to meet the Somervilles, Sedgw[ick], W.W., Prof. Hamilton & L<sup>d</sup> Adair & a M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Eaton (he is paralytic) &c.—Away at 8 to my own Soiree where came all the great Lions & Lionesses, M<sup>rs</sup> Frere, Humfreys, Clarksons, Marquis<sup>2</sup> &c 4 [?] Skrines, Prof. Lee M<sup>rs</sup> Lee and her 3 pretty daughters, 5 Headlys, pretty Miss Baines (who broke down in singing), Campbell & Stanhope who both sung well, &c, to the amount of about 60.—Magnif. supper with profusion of little nosegays &c. I never saw people drink so much champagne, they drank 14 bottles of it.—A select party of 13 (Barnes, Rothman, Lodge, Waud, Campbell, Stanhope [*sic*] &c—& Ouvry who was very tipsy & fell asleep) staid till 3½:—I wished them somewhere. . .

*Sat. 14.* To Town by Telegraph. . . Dulwich at 5½.—Found Lucy rather poorly Marg[aret] & Col[onel]<sup>3</sup> very well. . .

Romilly spent ten days at home. On 15 April he contracted 'a rascally cold and a blight' in his eye, but this did not prevent him from going to London on the following day to take the oath as a notary public. Otherwise, the time was spent mainly at Dulwich in calling on friends, churchgoing, and walking with and reading to his sisters, Lucy and Margaret. He returned to Cambridge on the 24th and was soon immersed in a duty which fell annually at the beginning of the Easter term, namely that of correcting scholarship papers for his college. The election of the scholars took place on 3 May and they were sworn in on the following day. Meanwhile, the receipts and expenditure of another month were recorded in their usual detail. They include purchases of quinine (4s. 6d.), biscuits (6s.), and handkerchiefs (18s.) for his sisters, and gifts of 2s. 6d. to an 'old woman of 85', 9s. to a 'Poor German-(Rogue)', 2s. 6d. to a 'Vagabond Jew' and £1 to 'Polhampton (again)'.

*Tu. 24.* Left Dulwich at 9½—Dined at Belle Savage—Down to Camb. with a Quaker Lady (old & well informed & an admirer of Franklin) & a young piece of light goods who was pretty & sentimental & admired the Country & Cambs & flowers.

*Th. 26.* Worked at the Scholarship papers all day—Comb. for 2 hours—At night Peacock looked in & we played some Cards.—Some rich blunders in the young men's Greek.

*Fri. 27.* John Mansfield come down to hunt for his son James who has just made his escape no one knows where:—an idle rattlebrained dog.—Comb. till 7—M<sup>r</sup> M. then came & sat with me.

*Sat. 28.* . . . Took Mr Mansfield into hall: got intimation of young Mansfield being with 2 friends at Spring hall in Haslingfield—M<sup>r</sup> M. went from Comb. in a Fly to catch his vagabond: met him walking

<sup>1</sup> I.e. Dr Graham, Master of Christ's.

<sup>2</sup> The Marchese di Spineto.

<sup>3</sup> Romilly's eldest brother, Samuel.