

[page starts]

<sup>1</sup>Rattel's Hoek July 24th 1876<sup>2</sup>

Journal

Yesterday I received Fred's<sup>3</sup> letter. I shall always feel grateful to him It has put fresh life in to me. I have not yet made up my mind whether I shall first finish Undine or Thorn Kloof<sup>4</sup> ~~first~~ & whether if I finish Undine I shall send it I mean to think tonight. Last night I lay awake until three aclock & my head is bad to day I have just finished ~~Undine~~ reading Undine over as far as I have written her out (A very wicked woman) & am not disgusted. ~~I must get into the way of the shrew.~~ I have made up my mind not to introduce old Wilks into Thorn Kloof.

<sup>5</sup>25th I wrote to Fred to day & to Wil<sup>6</sup> but got nothing else done I am going to leave Undine & write Thorn Kloof Mr M- is ?funing as though he were afraid of me I can't quite work it out. The pain under my shoulder is bad I am going to read Macaulay now & try to get a good nights rest To morrow as soon as school goes out I am going to walk up & down & finish Thorn Kloof

<sup>7</sup>Monday

I have done nothing to day but ?rewrite Fred's letter It is now a little after eight & I am going to go to bed & will try & finish M's History Tomorrow I shall have nothing on my mind My needle work troubles me a little. The nights are moonlight. I wonder if it would be possible to finish by Xmas, but I must not work too quickly. If I can get done in time I think I shall go home & get ?M's help it will cost a great deal but that's nothing.

---

<sup>1</sup> This manuscript consists of twelve foolscap pages which are handwritten in pen.

<sup>2</sup> In the top left corner facing in, in SCCS's writing in pencil, is 'Ratel Hoek (Tarkastad) (Martin's)'.

<sup>3</sup> Schreiner's eldest brother, who lived in England.

<sup>4</sup> Titles of novels being written.

<sup>5</sup> A line is drawn here to demarcate the two entries, which just follow on from each other.

<sup>6</sup> Schreiner's is younger brother.

<sup>7</sup> A line is drawn here to demarcate the two entries, which just follow on from each other.

[new page, unnumbered]

I have had a great many headaches all day but its better now. If only I can keep well I may be able to do something If I can't get on in any other way perhaps I shall give up & go home in ?Feb

<sup>8</sup>Friday I have not put pen to paper nor done any thing this week Last night I made up my mind to write out Undine. I am going to go on this afternoon To morrow is Saturday I am glad to say. I don't feel very bright. The boy<sup>9</sup> who went to Tarkastad yesterday has not come yet & I fear he has sloped with my £2. I feel so wretchedly unreadable weak mentally.

<sup>10</sup>Saturday evening I got a note from Will & one from Mamma Mr M<sup>11</sup> got a letter from Mr De Villiers saying they will be here next week or the week after to spend a day. I have sat in my room writing out all day, but I got very cold & hot headed so I went & walked up & down by the river ^Bushman^ I have got my stamps & have just written a note to Juta & sent 10/- to Mamma to buy butter with My legs ache so I think I am going to get influenza. I am going to write out all day to morrow. I don't think Mrs Martin likes me. I wish she did but I can't help it.

<sup>12</sup>Tuesday July ~~Morning~~ Afternoon Mrs M-s baby is ill the Doctor was here yesterday he only stayed a few minutes. I don't think they will have

---

<sup>8</sup> A wavy line is drawn here to demarcate this and the proceeding entry.

<sup>9</sup> The person who went to fetch the post, probably literally a boy.

<sup>10</sup> A wavy line is drawn here to demarcate this and the proceeding entry.

<sup>11</sup> Mr and Mrs Martin for whose children Schreiner was employed as a governess

<sup>12</sup> A wavy line is drawn here to demarcate this and the proceeding entry.

[new page, page unnumbered]

to send for him again, as the baby is not terribly ill. Mrs Kruger is here. I am a little fool on one point. I can't understand how it is Since yesterday morning I have felt restless. I want I don't know what: the intellect is a very good thing but it is not every thing. Last night I sat up with Mrs M- till 2 a'clock. I feel as though I would like to cry, but I can't ~~toe~~ ~~hoe~~

<sup>13</sup>July Saturday morning

~~toe~~ ~~hoe~~

I have been sitting up with Mrs Martin every night till two o'clock The Doctor was here on ~~Weds~~ Thursday & had dinner Mrs Ross is here to day Mimmie & E- C-<sup>14</sup> are not quite well they are all playing in the parlour. Mrs M is very nice. Mr M- is sitting writing to the Dr in the dining room, they are sending for more medicine but the baby is almost well. I got a letter from Mrs Rich on Thursday. I am going to write to her & to Miss Davey today. I've not put pen to paper this week

<sup>15</sup>July Monday 16<sup>th</sup> 1876

I have been a little troubled through my own fault You live & learn. This evening Mr Martin & I had a talk about politics Mrs Martin is not very well this evening. My brain feels tired tonight so I'm not going to write or read, but just to go to bed & dream as deliciously as I can. I don't dream much now-a-days.

<sup>16</sup>July 20 Thursday afternoon

I have just come out of school, & have been in the garden to pick myself an orange. Willie is practising in the parlour. I don't know how it is I can't get to work. I've not written a line since Sunday Andreas is still here he & Mr M are going to Tarkastad to morrow. I feel as though I should like some thing to happen I got a nice letter from Auntie<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> A wavy line is drawn here to demarcate this and the proceeding entry.

<sup>14</sup> The two Martain daughters.

<sup>15</sup> A sharp line has been drawn here to differentiate this and the proceeding entry, which sort of run on.

<sup>16</sup> A sharp line has been drawn here to differentiate this and the proceeding entry, which sort of run on.

<sup>17</sup> This is the older half-sister of Olive Schreiner's mother, the missionary and educationalist Elizabeth Rolland.

[new page, pages unnumbered]

July ^1876^ Saturday evening

I have written a great deal to day I am at the shabby woman Not quite comfortable about some things The De Villiers coming next week

Going to let Andreas get a book for Mimmy. Mrs Martins just now looked in & said good night in a pleasant tone Its queer how glad a little thing can make one I'm very popular with all the children just now.

<sup>18</sup>Rattel Hoek

Sunday morning

July 30th 1876

Yesterday I worked at my dress. If madness is being possessed by one idea I must have an inclination that, what I think of, I think of, & nothing else I've been in the dress ?groove (my head aches with it) now I am going to get out of it & to writing till nex Saturday.

The Caffers say they cant understand when Mr Martins talks high Dutch he's going to try & talk low<sup>19</sup> to day It will just now be reading time. I've not written any thing this week. Mr De Villiers did not come he is to be here next week. I got such a nice long letter from Will.

<sup>20</sup>Rattel Hoek ~~July~~ Aug 3rd Wednes

Mimmie's book came the evening I've not got my dress finished yet, but I've been working at it & not got a line written since Monday. I'm sure that someone in Tarkastad has been talking against me. Perhaps Mr Parker or it may be the

---

<sup>18</sup> A sharp line has been drawn here to differentiate this and the proceeding entry, which sort of run on.

<sup>19</sup> The polyglot language that eventually became Afrikaans.

<sup>20</sup> A sharp line has been drawn here to differentiate this and the proceeding entry, which sort of run on.

[new page, page unnumbered]

Dr, but I don't think so. Ive made up my mind not to publish Undine yet but when I have finished writing it out to write a small bit of mimosa & Wrecked in one. I think it will be good. I like Mr & Mrs M- very much. Mr V<sup>de</sup> Villier was to have been here to day but its raining a little. I hope he will come next week & bring me many letters

<sup>21</sup>Monday<sup>^</sup>

Aug 21<sup>st</sup> 1876. I am getting on slowly with Undine She is going to meet Diogenes to day. I have been busy with that wretched dress but I mean to write in earnest now. I have got some idea of Sinners & Saints.<sup>22</sup> & this morning came the thought of – A strong quiet married love the ~~two~~ characters strongly drawn. It will be my next work. Young Willie may be introduced.

I am expecting a letter from Fred & feel as though it would bring me some thing good, but I may be mistaken Here the sky is not all clear. I should like for some things to leave Mr De Beer was here yesterday & we are expecting Mr Villiers this week but Mr M- has not told me when. Last week I taught the children games. I am feeling very seedy.

---

<sup>21</sup> A sharp line has been drawn here to differentiate this and the proceeding entry, which sort of run on.

<sup>22</sup> Another book title.

[new page, page unnumbered]

Sep 2nd 1876 ^Saturday^

On Thursday evening I got the news that he<sup>23</sup> was gone I was walking up & down in the moon light expecting ?Fortam & the children were picking oranges. At last I went it & ~~Esther~~ Mimmie came to my window & said that he had come. I went into the dining room & caught the letters out of Willie's hand there was one with black all round This is mine," I said, but it was addressed to Mr Martin. There were some samples of things & a bottle of oil for me so I went in to my room Esther came in & said that her papa could not tell her from whom the black letter came. At supper Mr & Mrs Martin looked so ~~funny~~ strange & after supper Mr M- called me as I was going into my room. I went into the parlour & he told me.

I must go back to school on Monday. I sent a letter to Theo & Mamma by a Caffir. On Tuesday I will hear more. I wonder what we shall do, if I will be able to go & live with Mamma. Mr Martin is very kind I shall be thankful to him as long as I live. The trees are just in flower, but the worst of all are the corn lands which are just ploughed & the corn is fast springing up.

---

<sup>23</sup> Gottlob Schreiner had suddenly died from a heart condition, which all his children inherited.

[new page, page unnumbered]

Sep 10th I have been here four months to day. I is a little more than a week I got Mrs Freds<sup>24</sup> letter I have been busy making my mourning & teaching. I feel as though I could not keep on any longer, but perhaps I must.

I think the plan they will make will be that I come & live with Mamma at Balfour. I shall hear on Tuesday.

It is Sunday morning. I am sitting at my table. Willie has just given me an orange. I

My mind seems numb. I have done nothing at Undine. Saints & Sinners is growing clearer. I ~~shall~~ I am reading Goethe's Faust & feel as if I had written it. I have got Montaigne's essays. I have not got the spirit yet.

<sup>25</sup>Sat even^ Rattel Hoek

I have just got Mamma's letter & Theo's. I had not I should have started for Balfour on Monday. I had already asked Mr Martin to take me to Tarkastad, & all day I have been busy getting ready. Mamma is going to live at Cadwalladers. They want me to go & see her at Christmas. I shall go. I am going back to my writing now

---

<sup>24</sup> Emma Schreiner, the wife of Fred.

<sup>25</sup> A wavy line is drawn here to demarcate this and the proceeding entry.

[new page, page unnumbered]

& shall try & put my soul into it. I am utterly alone Theo's letter was kind, but it has made me feel so cold. I got a note from Emmie<sup>26</sup> too very cold & I am weary of all this little labour; labour on for nothing. In all this great world there is not one not one who is near to me.

<sup>27</sup>Sep 18<sup>th</sup> Mr Martin has gone to Tarkastad & will come back tomorrow. School has gone easily today. My life is very dark but I feel as though I could defy every thing. I feel hard. I wish I did always. I keep seeing Papa's eyes with tears in them & than is very æ ?madening then I think the people don't like no body in all the world But what does it matter soon I shall have rest like he has, & I can write while I live. I am going to finish Undine & take it with me when I go to Mamma at Christmas I am going to begin writing this afternoon

<sup>28</sup>Friday evening^

Sep 23rd I think I shall finish & read over Undine tomorrow. Then to the new work. I got some good thought this evening, but it will be years before it is finished It will be much better than poor little Undine I am anxious to know how<sup>29</sup>

/ends

---

<sup>26</sup> This could be either off to cousins of this name, Emma Rolland later Emma Hope, and Emma Findlay later Emma Earp.

<sup>27</sup> A dotted line is drawn here to demarcate this and the proceeding entry.

<sup>28</sup> A straight line is drawn dear to demarcate this and the proceeding entry.

<sup>29</sup> Although this is a folded sheet of paper and the two sides of its other 'half' are completely blank, the journal and this entry simply stop at this point. On the back of this second sheet are trial spellings, such as 'occured planed planned dryer becoming dryer becoming drier'.