

George Gibson Papers

- GG/1/1-2: Two marbled-paper bound Copy books belonging to George Gibson (1804) and Jane Thompson (1845?)
- GG/2/1-22: The first section of Gibson's work is his large collection of poetry notebooks. However, Gibson clearly wrote more notebooks than have been obtained by the library. Consequently there is an inconsistency between the Library's numbering of the notebooks and Gibson's: GG/1/1 is No. 3rd for Gibson, and where other notebooks are missing, the numbers get even more out of synch
- GG/3/1: Small notebook with very fragile – almost disintegrated – bindings. Begins with 'A Letter to the Revrd Mr X Concerning the doctrine of Election' but continues with poems.
- GG/4/1: Small notebook containing a draft of a legal document; biblical quotes; poems.
- GG/5/1: Poetry connected to or pertaining to Gibson's acquaintances/friends.
- GG/6/1: Booklet of secular poetry with very fragile binding.
- GG/7/1-3: Booklets (collections) of religious poetry with very fragile binding.
- GG/8/1: Long religious poem: Adam and Eve, Job, and Sampson and Delilah. Incomplete.
- GG/9/1: Anti-Irish poem. 9½ sides long.
- GG/10/1: 'A Word' (anti-Protestant, Catholic printed declaration) and Gibson's response to it (80 sides long and incomplete).
- GG/11/1-9: Copies, drafts and sometimes original letters (Aug – Nov 1843), poems, song lyrics and addresses that Gibson wrote or gave.
- GG/12/1-3: Correspondence to Gibson; a letter from his cousin, a letter thanking Gibson for charity and a draft of an I.O.U.

GG/1/1-2

GG/2/1

George Gibson's Cyphering Book. Longhoughton School. March 29 1804. G Gibson's Book Harlowhill (in the back inside leaf, is also referred to as George Gibson's Cyphering Book Longhoughton School June 21st 1804).

Book is bound in a marbled cover with leather spine.

Contains mostly mathematical problems, solutions and rules. Includes one short poem, 'On Heaven and Hell' which ponders the separate fates of holy children and non-holy. The poem is just past half way through the booklet. Also contains four lines: Distain bad action (x2) and Invent not a lie (x2) which are found about two-thirds of the way through the book.

The notebook is of potential interest for those studying the history of education. It also contains much information about weights, measures and the value of money. Both the front and back inside covers are full of Gibson's doodles.

GG/2/2

Jane Thompson Cyphering Book.

Book is bound with green marbled paper. The first three leaves are very fragile. Jane Thompson's name is found at the bottom of the second and the seventh leaf. The notebook is notable for its lack of doodles which characterises the majority of Gibson's work, therefore giving credence to Thompson's claim of ownership. There is no evidence as to how Gibson gained it, or how it ended up in the George Gibson papers. Thompson is clearly of a younger generation to Gibson though; the date included with the second signature on the seventh leaf most probably reads 'Jane Thompson's Copy April 17th 1845.

GG/2/1-22

GG/2/1

No. 3rd

Poems: last stanzas (7&8) of narrative poem; 'An Eulogy wrote on the death of a famous old Ewe in the township of Rothbury'; 'Seremonie at Malie's funeral'; 'Epitaph for Maily'; last two stanzas of another Malie poem; 'The Ghaist' (part removed); 'A Hymn for New Years Day'; 'On Lying'; a love poem; 'The coach wheal a Fable'; 'Aplication'; 'The Peaceful Retreat'; 'An address to a mouse that I turned up with the plough on 2nd of January 1819'; 'An Evening Hymn'; 'To a thrush which I heard singing on the first day of January 1819'; 'The happy Bachelor'; 'The affects of Winter'; 'Lovely Bess'; 'A Hymn praying for forgiveness'; 'The Cock and Pearl'; 'Application'; 'Mary's Goast' (part removed); last part of a poem about the benefits of remaining a bachelor; 'A Hymn praying for grace in times of Temptation'; last part of a poem – about women?; 'A Morning Hymn'.

GG/2/2

No. 4th

Poems: last part of a poem about women in the North East; 'A morning Hymn'; last part of a poem about sport?; 'Farewell to Fanny Q'; 'The belief parraphras'd'; 'Sandies Ghost'; 'A Hymn on the Season'; 'Particulars of a journey to Acklingts coals on 9th Jany, 1819 and meditations before setting out occasioned by hearing the rain batter against the window when I awoke from sleep'; 'Faith hope and

charity'; 'A Hymn describing the goodness of God'; 'Contemplation on the Night'; 'A thought on night'; 'Lumps of Truth or the Sundays Shoe black'; 'Letter' (to George Gibson's brother, Tom); 'A Hymn'; 'The Village Maid'; 'Lovely Joan'; 'A Farewell address to Tobacco'; 'Sentiment of a young man in regards of tobacco'; 'Imprudent behaviour of a widdow'; 'Alns Stream' (the 4th stanza being on a loose piece of paper at the back of the notebook).

GG/2/3

No. 5th

Poems: 'An Eulogy wrote on the death of two favoured whelps'; 'Wor Master hes awa'; 'A Paraphrase on 52nd Chptr of Isaih'; 'Reflections on hearing the Clock Strike five'; 'A Curious Fact (most removed); last part of a poem about watching gentlemen go hunting; 'On Music'; 'Another on the same'; 'I hope the Wars are Over (French-English); 'Origanal Eulogy for the Queen of Spain, Dec 1816'; 'I would have you make an end out'; 'A Scotch Joke' (most removed); remains of a poem about a bonny lass at Alnwick Fair'; 'Address to a Barnman'; 'The Waterloo Dance'; 'Reflections on the Sea Shore'; '1st Psalm'; 'Christmas Anthem'.

GG/2/4

No. VI

Poems: 'A Hymn'; 'Farewell Address to my ink bottle'; 'An Address to a Robin red breast that I heard singing on the morning of Janry 1819'; 'An address to the Tooth-ake'; 'A Wish'; 'The Sunday house breakers'; 'Lines compos'd on the anniversary of the birth of the Poet burns'; small part of a poem about Mailie the Ewe; last part of a poem about the slaughter of a magnificent ram; 'Address to the Cramp'; 'The loyal Sportsman'; 'Bony Bess' (a.k.a. bonny Bess); 'The bean field Courtship' (most removed).

- Notebook is bound in outside leaves of George Holland's Copy Book, Lesbury.

GG/2/5

No. 7th

Poems: last part of a poem about a death; 'Address to a plough'; 'The Crow and Ploughman'; 'The effects of a bad Memory'; 'Fair Isabel'; 'The 13th of February, 1819'; 'Remarks on Conversation'; 'Reflections on Sowing Wheat.'

- Notebook is bound in an advertisement broadsheet: 'A List Of New Works, and of New Editions, / Published in the Month of January, 1819; / And Sold by Longman, Rees, Orme, and Brown, Paternoster-row.' (Hannah More and Polidori are advertised)

- Many pages are cut out of the notebook.

GG/2/6

No. 8th

Poems: last part of a poem (stanzas 3-8) thanking God for the natural elements of rain and sunshine which bring the harvest yield; 'An Hymn'; 'A warning to Young Men'; 'Another of the same on the other side'; 'An Address to W.G.' (Willy Gray); 'A True Tale'; 'The Wafu Mark' (about the Mark of Cain: 'Now every maid will geek at me, / And treat me with disdain; / Since it is for a setianty, / That I have sprung from Cain.');

GG/2/7

No. 9th

Poems: last part of a poem, Eulogy of grief – someone dead or far away?; ‘Honesty is the best of Policy’; ‘A True Tale’ (about the death of a sow. The end is removed); last part of a religious poem; poem about the ‘effects of five and twenty years’ – about turning/being 25, a comic poem; beginning of a poem with the first line ‘Experience makes fools wise’; random snippet; ‘A Ducten’? – religious poem, 14 stanzas long; ‘Fame’ (12 stanzas against the beguilement of fame – personified as a woman); ‘A True Tale’ (romantic narrative); ‘Royal Fame’ (song lyrics, 7 stanzas).

GG/2/8

No. 10th

Poems: last 4 lines of (religious?) poem; ‘A True Tale’ (long comic poem written in dialect, about the difficult slaughter of a sow who was too heavy to lift); ‘An address to a Mouse’ (comic religious poem: commences with narrator cursing the mouse to Hell, until narrator realises that he also is a sinner, so concludes with narrator begging to mouse’s pardon and asking for a good word should the mouse reach heaven before him); section of poem; ‘Farewell to Poetry’ (agricultural theme: long winter nights are gone and in summer Gibson is too busy to write); ‘The Resolution’; An Hymn’; part of a poem/song lyrics beginning ‘And when I’m arrived at Montreal city . . .’; ‘The Lesbury Miller’ (song lyrics to the tune of ‘Miller O Drone’); ‘A Morning Hymn’.

GG/2/9

No. XI

Poems: last part of a poem berating a woman/ ex-lover?; ‘But now since you have been so cruel to me’; ‘A Solilaque on self-murder’; ‘Vanity Fair’; ‘Lines to a hedge sparrow which I had feld’; part of a love poem?; part of a poem; ‘Princess Charlotte’; ‘Mr Hillocks Blacking’.

- Notebook has a very fragile cover and the leaves are loose within the book as the binding is coming undone.

GG/2/10

No. 13

Poems: last part of a religious poem; ‘An Hymn’; ‘Lines wrote by a young man upon his death bed’ (religious poem); ‘last part of a poem – about a bad man?; ‘A Hymn Compos’d for a Sacramentle Occasion’.

- Notebook’s binding is half undone. Pages are only attached at the top.

GG/2/11

No. 14th

Poems: ‘A Prayer for forgiveness of Sins’; ‘Against Passion’ (religious poem); poem beginning ‘O Fanny O Fanny my lass’ – most removed; narrative poem about the local drunkard; last part of a poem reassuring someone: ‘. . . But o I pray dry up your tears and banish all your woe / For I’ll ever protect your drooping years while in this world below / My constant study it shall be thee evermore to please / So now aswage thy misery and keep thy mind at ease.’; ‘The Manks of the Aln’; poem beginning ‘Ye powers of music is so sweet and melodious’ (religious poem about God alone ending/curing depression); ‘The Dream’ (religious poem); ‘A Short prayer to be repeated on laying a child to rest’ (i.e. bed); ‘A Love Letter’ (most removed).

- Notebook has very fragile binding. One page is folded over and wrinkled, stained and slightly torn. It is still readable though.

GG/2/12

No. 15th

Poems: 'A Grace after Meat'; 'A general song of Praise'; last 3 lines of a love poem; 'On th' Vanity of all Worldly Pleasures'; poem addressed to friend, Bob, commiserating that his girl, Betty, has left him for another man; 'On the depravity of the nature of Man'; 'The Unwelcome guest ~ or An Address to an infant child' (poor child with elderly father: Gibson asks God to protect the child); part of a love poem; last part of a poem about a beautiful maid who, when alive, lived by the AIn; 'Against quarrelling occasion'd by seeing two brothers fight'; 'On Sweet Courting' – part removed; 'An Hymn'; 'A Short Prayer'; 'A prayer for the Spread of the Gospel'; 'An address to a partridge which I fell in with one day as I was moeing weeds'; 'The Fatle Resolution; last part of a poem about a girl – 'wanton lass'; 'Fair Anna'; 'A New Song – tune Middlesex Flora'; 'For two young Wcome (?) who were unfortunately down's on Sunday 23rd July 1819 while bathing at Craistor, Northumberland'; 'The Lesbury Wits'; 'Lines sent with a ballet Luck' – 'Dear Miss I hope thou will except / This ticket that I've sent to thee / And that thou will on Friday night / Go to the ball along with me / And I'll e'er look on it to me / As a particular favour granted / And all that is in my power lies / To honour thou shall not be wanted'; 'A Health to a newmarried pair'; 'To E.J.' (a berating poem); 'The Slower Complaint'; 'The Thunder Storm Improv'd'.

- Notebook is bound in 'The Second Report from the Secret Committee of the House of Commons on the Expediency of the Bank Resuming Cash Payments'. E. Walker, Printer, Pilgrim-Street, Newcastle. No date.

- First page is loose. The rest are fairly secure.

GG/2/13

No. 16th

Poems: last half of a love poem; 'The Thunder Storm'; 'The Worldly mans prayer for temporal Blessings'; 'Holy Matthews Pray'r on his birth day'; song/poem about drinking?; 'A Hymn or Pray'r'; 'A Prayer'; 'To N*A*A Dream' (most removed); 'Toasts' (6 of them); 'A Prayer in times of great distress'; 'Another'; 'An Elegy on the Death of a Peacock'; 'Epitaph for a Child'.

- Notebook's front cover is torn in half and the last two leaves are completely loose, and originally separate from booklet. Top part of the pages are folded over one another.

GG/2/14

No. 17th

Poems: 'Lines wrote with a brass pen'; 'Postscript – Of your living Brother George Gibson'; 'The Song of Praise'; 'Additional verses to J. H's Elegy'; 'The Slaves complaint'; 'Address to some young lasses that were making a great noise one night after I had gone to bed' (part removed); 'A rhyme to be repeated at rideing th' slang'; 'A Lament'; 'The Resilution'; 'A Prayer'; 'Additional verses to the reproof and advice to the young woman for laughing in the meeting'; 'Postscript'; 'Contraric'; 'A Letter from a young man to his Sueetheart, on his being abroad a few months in the North' (part removed); 'A Prayer against Slothfulness' (part removed); 'Psalm 143 & 4 & 7'; 'Toasts'; 'The Bards Lament'; 'A few verses compos'd on seeing a young woman laugh in the meeting'; 'An Epitaph'; 'A Prayer at the time s/e died'; 'To Care'; 'To Shame'; 'A Song'; 'On seeing an old wife going down the street (who

is well known for a common scold in Lesbury) with her leg tied about with cloths and hankerchiefs till it was of a monstrous thickness'; 'An Epitaph'; 'An Evening Prayer'.

GG/2/15

No. 18th

Poems: 'To a young Woman that came in one Saturday . . . night, when rather late to see what'n a clock it was'; 'The Hapless Bard'; 'An address to the Rhumatis (rheumatics)'; 'Lines Wrote at Kirnsupper'; 'Mr E Kirn Suppero Song' ;Part Second'; 'A Prayer for fine weather'; 'Verses wrote September 27th 1817 At the close of the Harvest which has been unusually fine'; 'To Some young women that were shouting about the doors on Mr G's kirn night' (most removed); 'The alarm Wrote in the time of the reform meetings at Manchester and elsewhere'; 'Part Second'.

- a childish drawing of a woman on the front cover – by Rachel? (Gibson's daughter?)

GG/2/16

No. 19th

Poems: 'To a Brother Poet'; 'An address to the clergy'; 'An address to the Itch'; 'A Prayer'; 'The Thunder Storm'; 'A Countrymans address to A—'; 'a Short Prayer for the use of children'; 'The Answer to the Countryman's address'; 'Verses compos'd sowing when on a particularly fine evening'; 'From a Young Woman'; 'To an acquaintance . . . the alarm wrote in the time of the reform meetings' (whole poem there but additional piece of paper inserted in); 'Postscript'; 'To a young man desiring a correspondance'; 'A Prayer'; 'Verses from Joshuas Riselution'; 'Verses on being sent to serve the masons'; 'Begone dull Care'; 'To the Revrd T H for sending a defameatory letter to one of his . . .'

GG/2/17

No. 20th

Poems: 'An Evening Prayer'; 'A Song (tune Jockey stays long at the Fair)'; 'The Fall of the Leaf'; 'An Hymn'; 'The Resolution'; 'To a Brother Poet'; 'Truth and Falsehood'; 'The Reformers Song'; 'Verses wrote on the back leave of a Pocket Book'; 2 untitled religious poems; 'A Post given, Saturday Novr 6th 1819 occasioned by the swearing in of special constaples to aid the social powers in securing the peace of the country'; 'A Prayer'; 'An Epitaph'; 'The Setting Sun'; the end of a love poem; 'P.S.' to the love poem; 'A Cook Maids Epitaph'; scrap of paper sewn in to end of booklet with it's own poem commencing 'Tho' your but a scrap ye shall not wasted be . . .'

GG/2/18

No. 21st

Poems: 'The Monster Death – To a Young Woman Occasioned by her comparing Death to a Plouted Cock' (with illustration of a plucked cockerel); 'A Song on the other side'; 'A New Song called the Willing Maid' (most removed); 'An Evening Prayer'; 'A Prayer'; 'A Poem on Love or Charity'; 'Verses occasioned by seeing two young women talking and laughing in the meeting'; 'On the death of a Child'; 'The fluctuation of the mind of man compar'd to a winters day'; 'The Lords Prayer parahraisd'; 'A Letter on the Other Side'; 'An Elegy on Winter'; 'The Storm'; 'An Prayer'; 'To a Robin-red-breast in the time of a storm occasioned by one coming into the barn while winnowing barley'.

GG/2/19

No. 22nd

Poems: 'The Coronation of Queen Caroline'; part of a song; 'Reflections on Shooting a wood pigeon'; 'The Thunder Storme'; 'A General song of Praise'; 'An Elegy to two yong women who were unfortunately downed on Sunday morning the 25th July 1819 while baithing nest Craistor'; 'An Elegy on winter'; 'An address to Rhumatism' (most removed); 'The Bodies address to Heart or Soul'; 'The Clean Shave' (a song); 'The Wish'; pages cut out; 'Verses occasioned by an anonymous letter being sent to E.B. charging [him?] as being an impious sinner and rating him to desist from his wicked practises for if he was overtaken by death in his sins hell would be his portion' (long poem – all there); 'An Hymn or Prayer'; 'An Hymn for Christmas day'; 'Another'; 'An answer to the anonimous Letter that was sent to E.B, this being design'd to be nail'd on the shop door the other being fix'd above it'; 'The Banks of the Aln'; 'Verses wrote by desire'; 'An address to + + ther'; remains of a love poem; 'An Elegy on the author passing the place of his nativity in the time of a storm'; 'To Mr Y+' (long poem, additional pieces of paper sown in); 'The Song. Tune the bad wife'.

GG/2/20

No. 24th

Poems: 'The Sound Argument'; 'Aln-Side or Jocky and Jenny' (most cut out); 'A Prayer before recieveing the Sacrament'; 'An Ode for the use of a Sundays School, supposed to be sung by the children'; 'A Letter' (To Gibson's sister); 'Toasts on various occasions'; 'Verses occasioned by a woman sending a drunk-man to me while standing at the door saying that I wanted to speek with him which was fake . . .'; 'An Epitaph for a young minstil over the[leaf?] (part cut out); 'To Mr Davison with some numbers of The English Law book ~'; 'Some fragments sent to an acquaintance'; 'To Mr R on a sacramental occasion on him standing mute after serving the table'; 'To Crudilles/Crudelis [?] who is designated (by the ingenous Revd John Mcgowan, Author of letters to the Revd Mr Priestly [?] on Soomanism [?] Death a vision) to be the evil Spirit who hath power to afflict the human body with all kinds of diseases, and with a hellish ferocity is said to laugh at there calamity. Suggested at the solemnisation of a funeral, from my attention being averted by the stately an graceful movements of they that performed certain duties on that occasion: in contrast with what they might in a few moments be for the chilling hand of death . . .'; 'A Poem by xx on the anniversary of the death of her husband Janry 1821 – Blank verse'; 'A New years gift'; 'Verses occasioned by some person sleeping in the meeting house on a sacramental occasion'.

- Bound in Newspaper

GG/2/21

No. 26th

Poems: 'To a friend on her sending her daughter M/M to a miry [merry?] Night' (social comment and disapproval: 'That she by ev'ryone might be admir'd / And by some nobleman might be desir'd / Ah, how erroneous is your calculation / Such charms are only baits for dissipation . . .'; 'To a young woman on wearing a vale [veil] in the meeting'; 'Postscript to the letter to a friend on her sending her daughter to a mirry night Nov 8, 1822'; 'To A D on the dedication of L. Ns Monument'; 'To a Brother Poet on drinking on the other side'; 'A Sotrm at Sea Thursday night Dec 3rd 1822' (with pictures and additional verses sewn in); 'To the Clark of Sion Meeting

House sent with a address to a young woman for wearing a vale therein'; 'Verses to a Friend'; 'To the same Jnary 1st, 1823'; 'Preface to a Letter intended to be sent to a Widlow Relating the undfortunate death of her husband'; 'A Valentine'; 'The Shepherd's dog – A Mastiff – A Fable'; 'To a Brother Poet'; 'The Country man and the Snake. A Fable'; 'To Mr. W. B Lesbury'; 'To a Friend, Verses on Spring'; 'To an acquaintance on his leaving the neighbourhood'; 'To a Friend, to see you in a short time. For now, Hus'd is the scowling northern blast'; 'An address to Mrs [?] on her leaveing Low Buston'; 'Verse on a Summers evening'; 'A Sonnet to Disappointment'; 'A Sonnet to the same'; 'An Elegy to the same'; poem's top line of paper is crumpled beyond reading – is very fragile. However, the poem appears to be an elegy 'on the death of Mr Hindmarsh'; 'Verses to a friend in answer to a few verses on Hope which began thus "Behold yonder Maiden arrayed in a vest . . ."; 'The Hogg and the Bees. A Fable'; 'A Letter to the Revnd Mr T R'; 'A Poem on a London Doll'; 'The return, A Pastoral Song'; 'To a young watch Maker who after cleansing an . . . my watch went too slow'; 'A Poem on the death of Miss Hindmarsh, Alnwick. Blank Verse'; 'An Epitaph on the same'; 'A Dream' (very long poem); 'The Mistake Reconcile'; 'A Fragment, Jan 14th 1824'; 'Verse on the Death of Miss Hindmarsh' (died of consumption?); 'To the Memory of Henry Kirk White'; 'The School-Boys Recreation, Jan 16th 1824'; 'Verses on pursuieing the debate between the Revd Mr Hindman a Unitarian and Mr T Gooer a Trinitarian, Alnwick (including a Postscript); 'The Text, a Dream.'

GG/2/22

No. 27th

Poems: 'The Text continued from No 26th'; 'Verses on the New Year 1824'; 'Who can by searching find out God'; poem beginning 'Oh for a mind as perfectly at ease'; 'An Ode to Discontent'; 'The frailty of Human nature'; 'A Letter' (draft of letter dated July 1st 1824 and addressed to 'Dear Wm' and in which George Gibson refers to himself as 'Georgy'. Berates William for the shortness of the last letter George Gibson received from him. Contains several poems and also Gibson's opinion of a poem on hearing music that William sent to him. Also contains brief political comments; 'A Letter' (another draft to William, dated Lower Buston, July 20th 1824. Thanks William for his longer letter, discusses; the postal service; William's wife and her health; the possibility of William getting a poem published; George's wish that they could see more of one another; includes a short Christian poem) a complete letter from William to George is found at GG/5/1; 'An Elegy on the Late Unfavourable month of April'; 'Verses to a friend on presenting to him the Poems of Miss Hindmarsh'; 'To the same on presenting to him the Warkworth Hemit, history of Almth Castle, Hulm Abby, etc' (the friend is Cousin William of London); 'Verses on Spring 1824 Addressed to Miss E---' (warning to the recipient to be sober in her youth and beauty as the fate of the coquette is grim: 'Lone by a smokey loom she sits / Wither her head on hand reclining / And only greated by her cats / From lack of food that's pining'); 'A Speciman'; 'A Stomachic'; 'Lines supposed to be wrote by Miss C. H on the anniversary return of the day of her birth Ag'd 22' (Christianna Hindmarsh??); 'Stanzas address'd to Miss C.H. Sept 1824 in a harvest field at Low-Buston By --- GG who gave them as a toast'; 'Stanzas to C.H.'; 'To Miss M.A. (Mary); 'P.S.'; 'To Miss A.W. on gathering Mushrooms by desire of ---- Sept 1824'; 'To a Watchmaker'; 'A Parody on a Mushrooamus' (to a Lady – then berating a Mr S?); 'Executership'; 'The approach of Winter'; 'Verses on finding an ivory hoof (?)

for amusing children with'; 'A Dream'; 'An Elegy on the death of Miss T. A. Poney(?)'; 'Dear 'Baccy a Song' (most cut out).

GG/3/1

Small notebook with very fragile – nearly disintegrated – binding.

Commences with a draft of 'A Letter to the Revrd Mr X Conserving the doctrine of Election'. Poems: 'A Moral Song'; 'A Prayer in time of trouble (from the book of Job)'; 'To Mr Y'; 'To the Revrd Mr H'; 'To a Robinreadbreast in the time of a severe storm while cleaning out a daych'; 'A Short Prayer'; 'Royal Fame'; 'An Elegy'; 'A Song suggested by a young Lady leaving her fathers house without any known reason.'

GG/4/1

Small notebook. Outside page is the draft of a legal document signed by Thomas Adams, Thomas Gibson and George Gibson. As the document is halved by all the notebook pages being inserted in-between it, it is difficult to ascertain what it pertains to – might be the Gibsons' having to make reparations for something to one Mr Joseph Harrison? One side/page of the outside/legal document is torn across the horizontal middle. Writing in the book goes 'both ways' so it is hard to tell which end is the front and back.

However, if the front cover is the untorn page with quotes from St John's Gospel and St Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians on the outside page, inside =

'A Collection of a few of the most remarkable occurrences in the Old Testament collected by George Gibson [Junior?] for the help of Memory to the readyer finding of any critical or interesting texts for the improvement of time, and for the getting of a thorough knowledge of the holy scriptures.' Poems: 'Invocation of reason'; 'The Muse'; the beginning of a reflection on St John 13:34.

- Go to the end of the book: 'On the different tenets of the lesser sects or Professions of Christianity.'

- Then turn the book over: End of the draft of a letter concerning the settling of a debt that someone owes George Gibson. Poems: 'An Exhortion to the frequenting of the place of public worship . . .'; 'Of the duty of Man' (prose with part removed); 'A Love Letter from a young man in humble circumstances to a lady of good fortune'; 'Letter from a Merchant in Town to his love in the Cuntry'; 'Farewell to poetry'; 'The Poet's lamentation'; 'A Valentine' (with illustrations); another Valentine poem beginning 'My name to you my dear I'll tell'; 'A Dream' (about the economic difficulties of farming; the heartache of killing animals; the weather affecting the crops etc. It is 46 stanzas long with a second poem continuing the theme straight after); 'Benevolance'; half a page detailing 'The most important news for the week ending may 13th 1820' which was the announcement of 'the coronation of king Geo 4 which is to take place on the 1st of august' and the continuing anti-aristocrat feeling in France which lead to the duc d'angoleem being attacked by a 'mob which the military were insufficient to restrain' in both Paris and Lyon on a journey south.; 'A Friendly Hint.'

GG/5/1

Poetry connected to or pertaining to George Gibson's acquaintances/friends: Much being the Lady Cecilia Anne Ridley Elegies. Loose pages.

Poems: 'Reflections arising out of the foregoing subject and grounded upon the following portion of Scripture VIZ Job 14 Chap 12 Vers "So man lieth down and riseth not until the Heavens be no more"'; 'An acrostick on the name and title of the late Lady Cecilia Anne Ridley'; 'An Epitaph for the same'; a message to Mrs Anderson: 'Mrs Anderson will have the goodness to take care of and return those papers when convenient for as they are the only copies which I have . . . [also] if Mrs A knows any thing of the piece (on the fox hunt) which I lent to Mr Sate I will thank her to annex it . . .'; 'The following verses were occasion'd by hearing that the Hon Rev Mr _, Rector of _ on a Saints day lately held a fox hunt with the boys of the Sabbath school, the Rev Gent acting as fox, and the boys as the hound, on the festive occasion'; 'Verses on the death of Lady Ridley 1843'.

GG/6/1

Booklet of secular poetry

Only very loosely stitched together. No covers. Very fragile.

Poems: Copy of 'An Enigma sent by Matthew Gibson'; George Gibson's 'An Answer to the above Enigma'; 'A Song'; 'Verses'; 'Angleing'; 'The widdowed Ass a Fable'; 'A Moral to the foregoing Fable'; 'To a Girl that is courted by a taylor'; 'To a Toad'; 'James Howes Elegy' – end cut away; poem about Gibson's gun; has been leant to someone who has broken it? – Beginning cut away; short poem resenting the loss of his gun.

GG/7/1-3

Booklets of sacred poetry

GG/7/1

'An Hymn for the spread of the Gospel'; 'An Hymn in commemoration of April 1830 being the fifth anniversary return X C X C'; 'Psalm 51st Verse 11th'; 'Lines occasioned by two Ministers disagreeing'; 'A Fragment'; 'Lines Occasioned by seeing a dead boddy, Mq 29, 1831'

GG/7/2

'Moral reflections on the Vanity of human Life'; 'Verses on the third anniversary return of the authors conversion'; 'Lines wrote on a projected change of Life'

GG/7/3

'An Elegy on the Death of Christ'

GG/8/1

Long religious poem. Unbound but numbered pages. Ten and a half sides long. Incomplete.

There is no title or title page, so arguably the beginning of the poem may be missing, although the page numbers begin with 1.

First section of the poem considers biblical narratives: Adam and Eve; Job and Sampson and Delilah.

Chapter 2 (p 9) begins with an application to the stories, before returning to Adam and Eve and the Fall in more detail. Abruptly ends p 11.

GG/9/1

Irish Poem. Unbound but numbered pages.

Poem entitled: 'Lines occasioned by the Irish prelates memorialising (?) the House of Commons against the provision of the Irish college bill lest the faith and morals of the students should be injured by coming in contact with the protestant professors of several sciences to be taught in those seminaries'

- v anti Catholic: 'The more men are inclin'd and strickly taught / To yeald obedience to the Church of Rome / More like incarnate devils they become / Fill'd with the spirit of the wicked one.'

9½ sides long with the pages unbound but numbered together.

GG/10/1

Gibson's response to 'A Word'.

'A Word: To the Rev. Messrs. Atkinson, Stowell, Blair and Company, occasioned by their Speeches at a Public Meeting of the Methodist Mission to Ireland, in North Shields, on Monday, April 28, 1834.'

The statement's political thrust is pro-Catholic and Irish independence. Cites numerous instances of persecution of Catholics throughout Europe by Protestants, and gives examples of anti-Catholic legal statutes. Contains fiscal condemnation of subscriptions raised for Protestant missionaries while the Poor in England are uncared for, etc. General polarisation: Catholicism is right, Protestantism, wrong.

Gibson's response: 'To Mr Edward Adams, North Shields, May 12, 1834.' Letter is 80 sides long and still incomplete. Effectively reverses all the arguments of the 'Word' to the conclusion that Protestantism is right, and Catholicism wrong.

GG/11/1-9

Letters Blagdon 1843.

Packet of letters stitched into a sheet of newspaper.

Entitled 'Letters Blagdon 1843' on the inside of the back cover.

The front cover includes articles about a 'Singular Discovery of a wreck' in Cleethorpes; The trial of Joseph Taylor, 23, who poisoned his father and attempted to kill the rest of his family (claiming to find justification in his socialist ideology and his lack of education); a shocking accident in which a man was nearly cut in half in a bone mill; and a letter from Harriet Martineau thanking the public for a subscription gathered on her retirement from writing. Inside the back cover is a very amusing and lengthy advertisement of 'Rowland's Macassar Oil' – a hair preservative and restorative – which is well worth a read. On the back cover is an article about political scandal in Spain 'The charge . . . brought against Senor Olozaga, of having used violence or intimidation to the young Queen, to make her sign the decrees for the dissolution of the Chambers . . .'. News from Brazil, and much more mundane, local news.

Letters:

GG/11/1 Letter: Blagdon. Sept 1843 Letter to Mr Ja Hood, Chemist and Druggist, Morpeth.

The letter is 4 pages, 7 sides long, with an address on the back of the 7th side. (therefore, original letter returned to Gibson?)

Contents: Gibson urging Hood to support Mr Anderson as the new minister for Morpeth. First 4 sides extol Mr A's worthiness. P 5-7 concern an increase in Mr A's salary (£140 p.a.) '... which will enable him to maintain respectfully and educate liberally his numerous and interesting family ...' 12 lines of religious poetry on p 3. On the back of 7th side is pinned a seemingly unconnected piece of paper which contains a poem, 'Resignation', which is based on Deuteronomy 3v25, and 'An Hymn In commemoration of April 1829 being the 4 anniversary return of the authors conversion' 6 stanzas.

GG/11/2 Letter: Blagdon, Aug 1843 to Mr Ja Hood.

The letter is 3 pages, 5 sides long, with address on the 6th side, complete with original sealing wax.

Gibson is writing to Hood, the Session Clerk of meeting re: the appointment of a new minister. Pre- Mr Anderson? Mentions the Rev Dr. Chalmers who is of 'the free Presbyterian Church of Scotland'. Would prefer if Mr Brown would not attend the meeting. Also mentions prayer and singing before the meeting. On p1 Gibson excuses himself from attending the meeting, claiming that he would like to be present, but the weather and the hay harvest prevent him.

GG/11/3 Letter: Blagdon. Monday, 14 Aug, 1843. to Mr Ja Hood.

The letter is 4 pages, 7 sides long, with address on the 6th side, complete with original sealing wax.

Page 7 is a brief note to Hood asking him to read the enclosed address to the congregation at the meeting at the chapel on 'Thursday evening'.

Pages 1-6 form an address to 'Dear Friends', emphasising the importance of unity within the congregation.

GG/11/4 draft of: 'An Address to be delivered to the Congregation at Morpeth on acct of there objecting a Minister because he is somewhere about 40 years of age.'
Written Blagdon, Aug 1843.

6 and a half sides long.

Gibson is writing in favour of the more mature Rev Anderson, against the congregation's wishes for a younger minister. P 3-4, 16 line verse stating the self-conceit of inexperienced ministers fresh out of college with idealised concepts of their task. P 5 gives a reminder of Mr Wood, who applied for the post of minister after the death of Mr Atkin. Mr Wood then professed himself to be 'a staunch consistant Orthodox Presbyterian' but now he is 'a confirm'd Unitarian.' Gibson proclaims the age of Mr Anderson as a bonus.

Address concludes half way down side 7. Sides 7-8 and a separate piece of paper attached by wax contain a number of sayings and responses devised by Gibson for a Sunday School Teacher and the scholars.

GG/11/5 Letter: Blagdon, Nov 13th 1843 to unknown recipient (Session member with a large family?)

7 sides long. Draft letter, not original? Religious in tone. Re: the extension of the chapel's burying ground, and is imploring recipient not to pursue their own plans to purchase the proposed ground, and therefore divide the congregation.

GG/11/6 Poem

On the back of the 4th page of the above letter. Copy of a poem George sent to his brother-in-law: 'The following verses were address'd to our Brother in law being part of a letter address'd to him on his sending us a goose Dec. 1843'

GG/11/7 Letter: Blagdon Nov 1843. To the Rev Brow

Previous Minister at Morpeth Chapel. Now at Kincardine. 9 sides long.

Pages 1-5: religious; inquiring after Rev B's new position.

Pages 5-6: short poem

Page 6: information on who conducted the sermons in the interim between Brow leaving and Anderson arriving.

Pages 7-8: Discussing Gibson finding a new job? Gibson passes information on what being a farm steward is like.

Page 9: Greetings to Bale, his wife and son, from Gibson and his wife and daughter, Mr. C Strong, Miss Wallace, Mr Riddle Mitford and others. Also includes a clear example of Gibson's postal address.

GG/11/8 Poem and Song

Poem, 2 sides long: 'To Mrs Wallace Housekeeper Blagdon on her inviting me to a party on Christmas Day eve'. 1843.

Declining invitation due to farm duties, but wishing everyone a very merry party.

Song, 1 side long: 'An Occasional Song' (Tune: The Soldiers Return)

A Christmas song to be sung by Mrs Wallace.

GG/11/9 Letter: Blagdon Aug 3rd, 1840.

Uncompleted draft. 6 sides long. Loose – not bound to the book.

Very angry, contemptuous letter to someone who has slandered Gibson: '. . . hoping that your paunch being released from the wash and your brain from the intoxicating fumes of the Bon bear which you drank so freely on Saturday last, and the little sense which you have being flowing in its ordinary channels . . .'

GG/12/1-3

Correspondence to George Gibson

GG/12/1

A Full and complete letter to Gibson from his cousin William Gibson, living in London, dated London, Dec 22, 1823. There are several drafts of letters from George to William contained in GG/1/22. Letter holds some family news about a brother's sea passage. Also some amusing school anecdotes and some of William's own poems.

GG/12/2

Brief letter to Gibson from Peter Young, 21st Febry, 1838. Letter thanks Gibson for a gift (financial assistance) he has given them; 'it came just in the time of need for to obtain dinner we were greatly at a loss . . .'

GG/12/3

Slip of paper (3rd A4). On one side giving brief information about Northumberland (location, soil, coal and principal market towns). On the other side is a draft of a legally binding I.O.U. from John Jenking of Chichester, Sissex, detailing a debt of £20 to be paid to Martin Moneyman.