

# Diary Extracts Sophia Hawes

This is the first page of Sophia Hawes' handwritten account of her visit to Manchester and Liverpool.

Originally written around 1838-39, the account has been transcribed (typed up) to make it easier for everyone to read. However, there are a few words that the transcriber could not make out, so they are recorded in the transcript as a [?].

## Like a challenge?

Can you read this extract from Sophia's journal and decipher the missing words?

Read some transcribed extracts from Sophia's journal on the next page.




27. Left London at 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> past 9 in the morning and completed a distance of 212 miles in eleven hours, without <sup>feeling</sup> more fatigue than from a ride of a few hours on the pavement of when the road is on level ground or an embankment. The view of the surrounding country can be as much enjoyed as in ordinary travelling. It is evident this cannot be the case when the country is hilly, deep cuttings then being necessary, or in some places tunnels; the latter are the least agreeable, the noise in them is much increased, & the colour is not pleasant. Some of the embankments are very high, & the propriety of an engine going off the rails on one of these is by no means agreeable. Between Liverpool & Manchester they have raised a wall of turf between 24.3 ft. high on each <sup>side</sup> of the road when on an embankment which gives a feeling of security, they have also planted the slopes with fir & some other trees.



*The view of the surrounding countryside can be as much enjoyed as in ordinary travelling [?] this cannot be the case when the countryside is hilly, deep cuttings then being necessary, or in some places tunnels; the latter are the least agreeable; the [?] in them is much increased, & the coldness is not pleasant – some of the embankments are very high & the possibility of an engine going off the rails on one of those is by no means agreeable.*



*Amongst the cotton mills of Manchester where they are abound, & whole chimneys surround you on every side both in & out of the town, that of Mc Connell is the largest; the building which are as usual 6 or 7 stories high*  
 *occupy the whole street.*



*Our return to Manchester was delayed by missing the next train, & which obliged us to take advantage of an offer to be wheeled along the rail road in a long truck, which the men carried from one line to the other when a train was seen coming to a standstill; though not particularly agreeable it was much better than walking the five miles in a high wind and snow. The town of Liverpool far exceeds in appearance that of Manchester still [?] in streets, houses & atmosphere. The docks are 4 miles in extent & were full of vessels – we went over an American packet boat which was very handsomely fitted up with maple wood, & exceedingly clean.*

