

April 4. - The piece of plate referred to in the previous page was this Day presented, by the Rev J. Porter to Mr. Hart. The Rev Gent being unwell it was necessary to take the same to his house, where I, Mr Butler, Tho^s Oddie, W Holding & Mr Hart repaired - He was in bed and appeared to me to be in a very feeble state - He gave a suitable address to Mr H on the presentation - Afterwards we went to the School, where, at Mr Hart's request Mr Butler & Myself delivered addresses on the Subject - Mr Hart then replied & was deeply affected by the Kindness of those over whom it had been his province to preside he said he could never forget their kindness & hoped that so long as God blessed him with health he sh^d be permitted to remain among them.

1839 Feb 4. Rev^d Th^s Exton drowned in the River Darwen. - He was at Balderstone¹

Sister Mary died March 15th 1837 Aged 33 -

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Feb^y 4th This Day was interred at St John's Church, the late John Hornby Esq^r in the 78th year of his Age. He was one of Old Standards of the Town, & no man had for so long a period received the high & approving testimonial of all ranks & classes of the Community. To the Town itself he was indeed a munificent benefactor, to its institutions & liberal & untiring contributor, & to the Poor an unceasing friend. - He was senior Governor of the Free Grammar School - one of the Oldest Governors of the Girl's Charity School, and, in fact, there was no good society to which he did not send his benevolent assistance & no case of real distress that was passed unheeded by him. - In politics he was a staunch & decided Conservative - a Member of the Church of England, and yet exceedingly Liberal Contributor to promote the cause of religion & virtues in every denomination. He died regretted by all the Town & left behind a bright example for his surviving children to imitate. The Inhabitants testified their veneration & esteem for this exalted character by a general cessation from business & by forming a procession to the tomb of this most excellent Gentleman. - I walked in the procession.²

[February] 8th Tho^s Livesey informed me that he had from authentic source that Miss B Alston of Pepper Hill, had been brought to be of a Child by the Rev F Law, about 5 weeks before - If this be true, what great reason I have to be thankful to God that his providence frustrated my intended union with her in 1838; An union, wh to my present thinking w^d have produced the most unmitigated misery & unhappiness to my mind. How very strange & singular is the working of events - my very expressions & suspicions, mentioned at the time to my mother - & her parents - as well as to divers friends - & recorded in my former Book are fully & literally verified. - There is nothing equal to biding God's time

Blind unbelief is sure to err

And seem his works in vain

God is his own interpreter

And he will make it plain

Poor Betsy

(The weather since the com^t [commencement] of Feb^y has been desperately cold & severe - fairer towards the end.

¹ Thomas Exton, who was perpetual curate at Balderstone and aged about 80, had preached at Balderstone on the Sunday and was seen in Lower Darwen on the Monday evening on his way home to Eccleshill, east of Darwen. He was found drowned on the Tuesday morning (*Manchester Times*, 9 February 1839).

² Hornby was the head of the cotton manufacturers, Hornby and Birley, which founded the first spinning mill at Brookhouse in Blackburn in the late 1820s (Abram, *History of Blackburn*, p. 231).

Feb^y 26 Made an Agreement with Charles Vose to secure him as a Lodger under our roof until his house be ready. - [illegible] per week, himself and wife - Servant to be found half by him, and half by us. - About a fortnight prior to this I & Mary accepted an invitation to take Tea with Mrs Callis, being the first since our Marriage. - A pleasant Evening

March 5th This Evening the Annual Meeting of the Library took place - On the motion G Edmundson, seconded by Mr Hoole, I was appointed Chairman. Present: - Mes [Messrs] Atkinson, Edmundson, Hoole, Swift, G. Radcliffe, Maurice, Tiplady, Chadwick, Threlfall, Wraith, Whewell, Dewhurst, Cort, W Boardman, Lewis, Adamson, Alderson & others. - J D Cort after being admitted in the [illegible] of his Father would have proposed some alteration in the Rules contrary to rules I was of [illegible]

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to refuse putting them from the Chair. He made use of a deal of silly, pragmatical, & impertinent remarks, & in fact made himself a laughing stock to the Company. -

Wed^y March 10th A Special Meeting was held, D Robinson, in the Chair. --- Various resolutions & alterations were suggested The principal as follow:-

The Library to admit Guinea Subscribers, without proprietorship - Annual

The Fines to be re-modelled & reduced.

The Library to be open each Day 11 to 1 for Delivery

Power to call a special General Meeting given

The following Committee chosen to revise the Rules:-

William Boardman

Thomas Clough

Joseph D Cort

Adam Dinwoodie

George Edmondson

L. Adamson

William Hoole

Tho^s Atkinson

Charles Tiplady

Sub-Committee from the above -

Geo. Edmundson; Charles Tiplady - Jo^s Denison Cort -

D Robinson, Chairman

Note. WB. complained of Mr Cort's behaviour to him & C.T. supported the charges made - DR. sheltered him from a severe castigation.

Sub Com^{tee} met and revised the Rules and appointed a Meeting for April 8.

Mar. 21. They chanted the Song of the Three Children this Morn^g at [Morning] St. John's. It is nearly 20 Years since I heard it before.³

Apr. 26. I was nominated a Sidesman at the Parish Church, & on 29th sworn in to the Office. The following constitute the Officers & Clergy of the Parish Church, Rev^f J. W. Whittaker,⁴ Vicar, Rev^f Mr. James, Curate, Messrs. Tho^s Bentley, Thomas Fisher, Thomas Waring & Richard Bell, Wardens, Messrs. Robert Bentley, Jam^s Pilkington, Charles Tiplady & J. S. Livesey, Sidesmen - I pray to have Grace Given me to fulfil my duty faithfully in the Office.

³ The Song of the Three Children was a short book of the Apocrypha that was inserted after Daniel 3:23 in some versions of the Bible with part, known as the Benedicite, used as a canticle ('Song of the Three Children', *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (2 rev. ed), E. A. Livingstone (ed.), <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780198614425.001.0001/acref-9780198614425-e-5421> [accessed 1 October 2020]).

⁴ Rev. John William Whitaker, D.D., (c.1790-1854) was vicar of St. Mary, Blackburn, from 1822 to 1854 (Abram, *Blackburn*, p. 299).

May 11th - Entered into the Prosperous Youth Independent Order of Odd Fellows, - was appointed on the Committee.⁵ The admission cost £1.1.0. In the course of the Business the Ballot was introduced for a new V.G.⁶ - B^r [Brother] Kenyon & B^r Plummer, Candidates; - B^r K admitted majority - 1- 17 to 16. Also a new Secretary Coulthurst versus Stevenson C. 20. S. 16 -

[May] 20 This Day died James Appleton, an acquaintance & formerly President of the Bⁿ Ops Conⁿ [Blackburn Operatives Conservative Association] aged 45.

This Day terminated the debate on the Sugar Duties after nine nights discussion. Ministers in a minority of 36.⁷ -

Remarkable fine genial spring weather from the middle of Feb^y onward thro' the whole Spring - with scarcely any drawback - & very few east winds.

[May] 15. Tho^s Farren left. He has now served up his whole time not very much improved I fear.

An Election is generally expected to be near at hand. A requisition to John Hornby Esq.⁸ has received numerous signatures.

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May 25th J. Forrest called and requested me to go to Blackpool with him in his Gig,⁹ I did so partly expecting that that mode of conveyance would be cheaper, but I found that two days expences cost me £1:3:6^d viz:

	s. d.	Suppose going by Coach	
Bars ¹⁰ to Preston	1:4	Coach to Preston	2.6
Horse D ^o D ^o & Gin ¹¹	2.0	D ^o Lytham	2.6
Tea at Lytham &c.	2.3	D ^o Blackpool	2.6
Bars to D ^o	.6	Liquor & Food	1.6
Breakfast &c Blackpool, also Tea	4.6	Keep at Blackpool and beds 2 nights	2.6
Horse at Ditto	3.6	Expences at Fleetwood	1.7
Expence to Fleetwood	1.7	Shrimps &c	1.3
Shrimps for home	1.3	Coaching home	7.6
Bars home	1.10		
Horse at Preston, &c	2.0		
	£1.0.9		1.1.10
Breakfast at Lytham	2.3	Expences home	1.6
& Horse & Ostler	£1.3.0		£1.3.4

⁵ The Oddfellows was a friendly society which provided protection for its subscribers. The Independent Order of Oddfellows - Manchester Unity (MU), of which this lodge was part, broke away from the original Oddfellows in 1810 (Rachael Beresford, 'History of the Oddfellows', https://web.archive.org/web/20071006111747/http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/uploads/documents/feb_06/odd_1139392353_Oddfellows_History.doc [accessed 2 October 2020]).

⁶ Vice Grand - Branch Deputy Chairman ('Our Fraternal Traditions', *the Oddfellows*, <https://www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/traditions/> [accessed 2 October 2020]).

⁷ Francis Baring, Chancellor of the Exchequer, included in his 1841 budget a proposal to reduce the duty on foreign sugar in comparison with that produced in the colonies. It was defeated by a combination of Conservatives, protectionist Whigs and anti-slavery Liberals, the latter because foreign sugar was largely produced by indentured labour. The proposal was defeated by 317 to 281 (Boyd Hilton, *A Mad, Bad, and Dangerous People? England 1783-1846* (Oxford, 2006), p. 505).

⁸ John Hornby (1810-1892) was the fourth son of John Hornby (see 4 February 1841 above).

⁹ A light one horse-carriage with two wheels: *OED* 'gig' n.2. 1.

¹⁰ Toll-house gates or barriers on a road run by a turnpike trust: *OED* 'bar' n.1. 13.b.

¹¹ 'Gin' usually meant a machine worked by horses, for example, an apparatus to hoist coal from a mine; in this case Tiplady probably meant the horse-drawn gig: *OED* 'gig' n.1. 8.b.

but if by Railroad from Preston then about 6/- Less. The weather was fine & agreeable. On the road we entered into long conversation on various subjects.

30th I received a very kind Letter from Mr Feilden¹² of which the following is a copy:-

"London, May 29th 1841

"Dear Charles,

"Accept my thanks for your kind Letter of the 28th just received, with its enclosure, which I had seen before.

"Mr. John Hornby tells me that he shall be in Blackburn on Tuesday next, when most likely he will decide upon the course he means to take, for at present, he is rather undecided, but say nothing about this, for his plans must soon be made public, and he will do nothing to injure me.

"I think it would be premature in me to issue an Address at present, to the public, because my intentions are known, but I shall have one in readiness, that I hope will reach the points you speak of and give general satisfaction to my friends.

"I am told we may have a majority of about Two on S^r Robert Peel's motion of want of confidence. No Dissolution will take place till the Corn Question¹³ has been discussed, for this is the point on which the ministers depend; for Agitation is their object.

"Although I have told you that we may have a majority of Two, I must confess I think it doubtful. The majority may be the other way; it will be a neck and neck business."

Believe me to be, dear Charles

Truly Your's,

W^m. Feilden."

The ultimate effect of the above division, and one which followed it, was to cause the Ministers to dissolve the House, and a very severe contest occurred in the Borough of Blackburn, by which Mr. Turner, the Radical Member lost his seat by a majority of one only. The Election occurred on the 29th and 30th of June 1841.

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June 8th. Quarrelled with Mary on the following occasion Tho^s. hat nib¹⁴ was ill broken, so I took it off, & finding another upon an old cap of mine, I civilly & gently requested her to fix it on instead of the broken one. She said It was inconvenient So no more passed at the time. -This Day I observed that Thomas looked very awkward in the cap & asked why she had not fixed the other on. - She said it was lost. I replied if she had fixed it on when I desired her it would not have been lost. She very snappishly replied that she had told me it was inconvenient. I said considering the little time it would have taken to do it she should have made it convenient. - She retorted that she would please herself when she did it or whether she did it at all. I said I would not submit to her impudence. She immediately replied if I did not hush she would give me something to make a noise for. - Enraged at such downright hectoring insolence I struck her upon which she struck me, & If I had not held her

¹² William Feilden (1772-1850) had been elected as a Conservative as one of two MPs for Blackburn in 1832 but did not seek re-election in 1841.

¹³ The Corn Laws imposed duties on imported corn to ensure English farmers grew sufficient grain but came to be regarded as class legislation by protecting the income of landowners while raising the price of grain for consumers. Abolition of the Corn Laws became a major political issue until their abolition by Peel's government in 1846 (Hilton, *A Mad, Bad, & Dangerous People?*, pp.264-8).

¹⁴ Nib, or neb, the peak of a cap (*The English Dialect Dictionary* Vol. IV. M-Q, Joseph Wright (ed.) (Oxford, 1905), p. 239).

hands she would have "bitten me". To mend¹⁵ matters Charles was in her arms, & screaming dreadfully - Thomas I whipped & punched on the back in my rage for being the cause of the quarrel. - Many other jeers & offences Epithets She called - especially a Brute, & a Liar & so forth. - I told her I should be no man to stand by & hear her threaten to strike me, & for lying I defied her to prove that I had told her one since our Marriage. As an other quarrel she strongly expressed her sorrow & regret at ever marrying me, & if she had thought that I should have behaved to her as I had done she never would. I said she might go then if she thought so &c &c &c. - From this I will have any-body to judge of her temper. I said that if it was wrong to strike a woman, it doubly so to provoke a Man to do that which he descried to do, nor had the least intention of doing - I am afraid I have hurt Thomas.

July 12th The three previous weeks have been all bustle and agitation in consequence of the General Election.¹⁶ The Candidates for the Borough of Blackburn were, W^m. Feilden, Esq^r. Jno [John] Hornby, Esq^r, & W^m. Turner, Esq^r.¹⁷ The two former on Conservative, and the latter on Whig & Radical Principles. The contest was extremely severe & close, The No^s at the close of Polls being

Feilden	441
Hornby	427
Turner	426
Majority	<u>1</u>

The Mob were favourable to the Whig Candidate, - & great excitement prevailed on the Day of Election. Joseph Eccles, Esq^r. was the Returning Officer.

Among the papers which appeared, I was the author of the following "Little David", "A Conservative", 2nd Address "Conservatives to the Poll", "A Friend to the Poor" &c &c

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Destruction of the Bull Windows &c

About two hours previous to the announcement by the returning Officer it was currently reported and believed that the Conservatives had been defeated by a majority of Two Votes; but upon careful examination of the Poll-Books it appeared that this Report was incorrect, & there was exhibited a Majority of one in favor of Mr. Hornby. - This announcement exasperated the Liberal Mob to such a degree that they instantly resolved to attack and if possible demolish the "Old Bull Inn" where the Conservative Committee sat during the Election. An immense multitude rushed for this purpose into the market-place & commenced throwing heavy paving-stones, brickbats at the windows which they speedily demolished. They then proceeded to gut the interior - commencing the Old Travellers' Room adjacent to the street, from which they tore Tables chairs, sofas, Glasses and every other description of Furniture - Not satisfied herewith they levelled¹⁸ large stones at the front door which ultimately gave way & the mob rushed tumultuously inside threatening death to all opposition. - In the mean time by the exertions of James Neville, Esq^{re}.¹⁹ the military was called out, the Riot act Read & the Police Constables marshalled into the market-place - whence they commenced a vigorous attack on the infuriated populace, and in a brief space put them to the rout. - It was my lot to be stationed on the Bull Inn, during the whole fray, in

¹⁵ Here used figuratively, to add fuel to a fire: *OED* 'mend' v. I.1.b.

¹⁶ Polling date was 30 June 1841.

¹⁷ William Turner (1776-1842), calico manufacturer from Mill Hill, Blackburn, had been one of the two MPs for Blackburn since the constituency had been created in 1832.

¹⁸ Aimed: *OED* 'level' v.1 II.7.a

¹⁹ James Simpson, Joseph Feilden and Rev. J. Hopwood, who were magistrates, called out the military and police, including special constables (*Blackburn Standard*, 30 June 1841).

which I witnessed three of the most astonishing transitions of human passion, in the inmates that I recollect ever to have witnessed, viz Despondency, consequent on the false Report circulated that we had lost, Excessive Triumph on the announcement that we had won by one & dreadful Terror when the Mob attacked the Building. In the first instance all was solemn silence & dejected countenances - you might have heard a pin fall; - in the second - they appeared positively intoxicated with joy - such salutation & shaking of hands & wishing of joy, I never saw anything equal to it since I was born, - It was, as I may remark, in the height of this bewilderment of joy that the sound of the first missile reached the ears of the assembly - the transition awfully sudden & somewhat ridiculous as shewing the effects of fear on the strongest nerves when suddenly & unexpectedly attacked. - In an instant, men of the most undoubted courage fled panic struck into holes & corners, over roofs & buildings - into cellars, attics, stables, &c &c. - I remained with a few until the riot was quelled. - This is now the third time the Bull has been stormed after an Election.

July 1st The Rev^d Jackson Porter astonished the whole Town, by marrying his under servant Jane Neville, after a short Courtship of one fortnight - Considering the precepts w^h he always strenuously preached against unequal Marriages - the fact was the more surprising & inexplicable. - He also offended some of his oldest and best friends by his conduct in this business. - viz Mr. [illegible] and others. - In a sermon preached by him on the Death of his first wife he said, - "In her place none can ever stand to me but God" and yet in the lapse of time we see his mind changed so thoroughly as

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to make his servant a Clandestine Wife. So little reliance then ought to be placed upon assertions uttered in affliction and excitement. - If any Man, had hinted to him that such w^d have been his conduct afterwards - he w^d indignantly have replied if ever that came to pass - look upon me as a Man bereft of his senses.

Aug^t. 21 - At ¹/₂ past 5 this Morning a terrific thunder Storm broke over the Town; the rain literally descended in torrents, and quickly laid under water the various Shops and Cellars in low situation, - Salford, Penny Street & other places suffered severely.

[August] 22. Went to Harwood Charity Sermons with James Livesey the Rev^d Gilmour Robinson preached an excellent discourse from Proverbs "My Son, if Sinners entice thee, consent thou not". The Choir performed several airs and choruses from Handel's inimitable work the Messiah; they sung them in an exceedingly correct, harmonious, & delightful manner. - The whole service gave great satisfaction to the congregation. - which tho' a very wet afternoon was very numerous & filled the church to overflowing.

[August] 29th Rev^d D^r Whittaker, the Vicar, visited the School this Morning; many of the Teachers & Monitors were gone to Witton,²⁰ whither also I intended to have gone, but was apprehensive of rain. - He was well pleased with the order and discipline of the School and held a long conference with Mr. Hart, self, and Mrs. Cort. - In the Afternoon the Rev^d A L. Courtenay visited us.

Sept 2nd Political Memorandum - On the 19th of Aug the New House met and unanimously chose Mr. Lefevre Speaker the Conservatives not opposing his re-election. - In the House of Lords the Address to the Queen's Speech was negatived by a majority of 72, and the same fate befel it in the Lower House by a majority of 91. - Ministers perceiving the decided turn affairs had taken, and that upon a question which they had anticipated would ensure them a majority came to the Resolution of immediately resigning their Office w^h her

²⁰ Witton, about 2 miles to the west of Blackburn, is now a suburb of the town but, at this time, was a separate township.

Majesty most graciously accepted Aug 28th Sir Robert Peel was sent for - and a Conservative Ministry formed.

Sept 12th - Dr. Whittaker visited the School both this Day & the previous Sunday. The no^s was 593. - In the Afterⁿ at the request of Mrs. Cort and the Teachers I delivered an Address touching the Death of Jane Ainsworth late a Scholar in the School in wh. I took occasion to show three of the distinguishing marks (humility, sincerity & an earnest desire for the salvation of others of a real Disciple of Christ. - and to enlarge on the benefits of Sunday Schools; the advantages of Religion; and the certainty of death the scholars were very attentive & serious - The School was this day visited by Mr. John Lund, Lieut. Holbeck, Rev^d A. L. Courtenay, Tho^s Butler, Esq^{te} Mrs. Hopwood & Mrs. Hunt.

The breach unhappily existing between Mr. H. [Hart] & Rev J Porter still continues - Mr P still persisting that he has not acted in a improper manner. The division in the Church is likely to place a serious loss & hindrance to Religion.

Sept 10th Died Ralph Marsden. 12 W^m Forrest, Manufacturer.

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Sept 14th. About 10 o'clock this Evening there commenced a most awful & tremendous thunder storm, the lightning was exceedingly vivid & almost continuous - The rain descended in torrents & quickly flooded the lower parts of the Town. Poor Salford came in for a large share of the mud as usual. The river was very high, & many houses in the Town were much inundated. -

[September] 17th. Rev J. Porter called, and stated that he intended each Catechumen²¹ with a present of "The Church Service"²² 32nd [illegible] bd [bound] in Morroco & gilt cost 10/- 220 copies - £110:0:0. The extreme value & magnificence of the present has caused great talk & reason[?] by the Public -

[September] 20 Quarterly Meeting of the B. P. B. [Blackburn Philanthropic Burial] Society - Attended & acted as Chairman - very throng - Some little opposition was raised by Mr. F. Wilkinson against the 4/- allowance for funerals. Said that it was contrary to the principle of the Abstinence Society - to receive or use Liquor at Funerals - & at the suggestion of the Chair it was moved "That the allowance for funerals continue as before - but in cases any Person refuses to take the liquor the Under Treasurer shall pay "three shilling" in money and retain "one shilling" for his own use and benefit." - A man named Harrison complained that a Child of his had not been inspected since entered. It was proved that the Collector of the District had not delivered it unto the Inspector - The same person objected to the appointment of an Inspector & said the Offic [Officer] was both useless & unauthorized. The Chairman read the rule requiring the app^t [appointment] of an Inspector & enlarged upon his duties of office - The objection was over ruled by an immense majority. - A Member objected to the printing of the Report oftener than annually - it was argued in reply that the public were not be satisfied unless they knew what was going on. - The objection was over ruled - 3000 Reports were ordered - some new Officers appointed & thank voted to the Treasurer & Chairman - An interesting but (to me) laborious meeting - Home 12 o'clock.

[September] 23. Meeting at Bay Horse of the B [Blackburn] Assⁿ for Prosecuting [illegible] Debt - Appointed Chairman - Read a code of Rules concocted by a provisional Committee - Much Debate on various of them, ultimately agreed to with amendments - Had the offer of being made President for one year - but declined on account of its interference with business, & leading to public houses & drinking. Joseph Parker, President Henry Eglin

²¹ Those being prepared for confirmation: *OED* 'catechumen' n.

²² It is not clear to which book Tiplady referred.

Vice do [ditto], Charles Vose Sec^y [Secretary], W^m Johnson, Treasurer - Committee of 7 Meetings monthly & quarterly of the Members - Subscription, 2/- Quar^y [Quarterly] 2/6 entrance.

[September] 25 Meeting of the I.O.F. [Independent Order of Odd Fellows] proposition that William Walsh be made:- objection - B. Martin unfit on account of [illegible] supported by B^r [Brother] Ratcliffe both tailors - Defended by B^r Tiplady G. A. Talbot - B^r [Brother] R. Hacking - B^r A Wilkinson & B^r Birch, Surgeon. Ballotted for - For 18, Against 7. - Majority 11 - Made. Had the office of Assⁿ [Association] Secretary pressed upon me last declined on account of business - left early.

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[1841]

Oct 24 Clerked for Mr. Fairbrother at the Parish Church in the Aftnoon - He gave me 1/6 for the duty.

[October] 25 Sale at Mr. Burrells the Printer - small lots - sold well, - but did not make much. -

[October] 28. Valued his printing Material on behalf of the Sherriff amounted to 166:18:8 - including Three Presses. - I conceive with fair competition - the Stock sh^d fetch this at least. -

Oct 24. The Rev^d J. Porter having resigned the Rev R T [Robert Thomas] Wheeler²³ was presented to St John's. -

Nov 7. Distributed, in conjunction with Mr. Hart & Mrs Cort 80 Copies of the "Church Service" amongst the Teachers & Monitors of the School - being a parting Token from the Rev^d J. Porter - they were received with sincere feeling of gratitude. - N.B. Mrs C. behaviour with respect to this present has not been satisfactory to Mr. H & myself. -

[November] 9. Her Majesty was delivered of a Son this Morning at 11 o'clock at which happy circumstance great rejoicing took place. It happened to be the Civic Feast of the Lord Mayor of London. -

[November] 22. - At about 20 min to 5 o'clock this Afnoon, my dear Wife was delivered of a Second Son for whose safe Delivery I desire to express sincere & hearty thanks to Almighty God - His name will be "William Callis"

[November] 24. Wife & Child doing very favourably so far thank God.

Obtained this Day a Licence for the sale of Patent Medicines.

Decr 5. Sunday. - W Hart, Mrs Cort and Myself were each presented with a neat Edition of the Polyglott Bible,²⁴ with Cruden's Complete Concordance,²⁵ & to the other the Church Service. - In reference to which the following Paragraph appeared in the Bⁿ Standard. "Valuable Tribute of Respect - We understand that in addition to the munificent presents given by the Rev^d Jackson Porter to the Catechumens for Confirmation, & to the Teachers &

²³ Revd. Robert Thomas Wheeler (1812-1875) was born in Liverpool and before moving to Blackburn he was curate and teacher at St. Anne, Lancaster. He gained a BA in 1840 and MA in 1844. He was perpetual curate at St. John, Blackburn between 1841 and 1851. After leaving St. John he was Vicar at Minster, Thanet, Essex between 1851-1869 and then Rector of Hadleigh, Suffolk and Dean of Bocking from 1870 until his death. He died at Margate, Kent, in 1875. He was popular as an eloquent, evangelical preacher with several of his sermons published (*Bolton Chronicle*, 30 October 1841; *Lancaster Gazette*, 30 October 1841; *Crockford's for 1874*, p.925; *Ipswich Journal*, 1 May 1875).

²⁴ Samuel Bagster (1772-1851) published *The English Version of the Polyglot Bible* in 1816 with over 60,000 references which enabled him to break the monopoly given to the king's printers in the British Isles and Oxford and Cambridge universities. Bagster followed this in 1817 with *Biblia sacra polyglotta Bagsteriana* in four volumes (H.R. Tedder, revised by J.M. Alter 'Bagster, Samuel, the elder (1772-1851)', *ODNB*).

²⁵ Alexander Cruden (1699-1770) produced his *Concordance*, or index, to the bible between 1735 and 1769 and, although it has been revised, it is recognised as being Cruden's work alone. Bagster produced versions of his *Polyglot Bible* bound with Cruden's *Concordance* (Lionel Alexander Ritchie, 'Cruden, Alexander (1699-1770)', *ONDB*).

Monitors of the Thunder Alley Sunday Schools, - the Superintendents of the above School Mr. Hart, Mr. C. Tiplady and Mrs Cort were each presented with a valuable 8^{vo} [octavo] Edition of the Polyglott Bible, to two of which were included Crudence [sic] Complete Concordance, & to the other the Church Service - neatly bound in morocco. - The present was accompanied by a note from the Rev^d Gentⁿ expressive of his good will & esteem to each of them individually and of an earnest hope that they might be long spared to occupy their important stations in that large & flourishing Sunday School. - The Superin^{ts} have returned suitable acknowledgements to the Rev^d Gent for his kind and affectionate Remembrance."

Dec^r 6. Meeting of the Teachers this Evening, W^m Holden behaved in a most disorderly, insolent & rude manner, both to me & to Mr Hart for which he was severely reprimanded. - The Teachers much vexed at his conduct & many wished he would leave altogether.

[December] 7. Little & his mother doing very favorably for which Mercy I desire to be unfeignedly thankful & to shew for that my gratitude not only [illegible] life but in [illegible] life.

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Dec^r 6. Sent the following Letter to Mr. Porter as an acknowledgement for his kind presents The Hymn sung, was "O for a heart &c"

[Entries after those for February 1842 in the original.]

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Dec^r 19 - Paid Dr. Whittaker the sum of £14:2:6 being the proceeds of a Collection in the Parish on behalf of the Xtian [Christian] Knowledge Society - after an eloquent Sermon by Mr. Wheeler the Incumbent of St John's. The Church was exceedingly crowded on the occasion - This morn^g also the Rev^d Gentⁿ commenced his labours at St Johns in the room of the Rev^d Jackson Porter - his text was from the Epistle to the Thessalonians "Brethren, pray for us, that the word of God may have free course and be glorified, and the Lord direct your heart into the love of God and into the patient waiting for Christ - A truly admirable discourse.

25 - Xmas Day. - Attended St John's. Text from Timothy "Great is the mystery of Godliness, God was manifest in the flesh" A very powerful & eloquent discourse.

[December] 26. Mr Wheeler took the singular Text from Genesis "How old are thou", from wh: he delivered a most affectionate & faithful discourse. - He attended the School in the Morning along with Dr Whittaker. - He appears to be a Man calculated to do great good in the Town.