

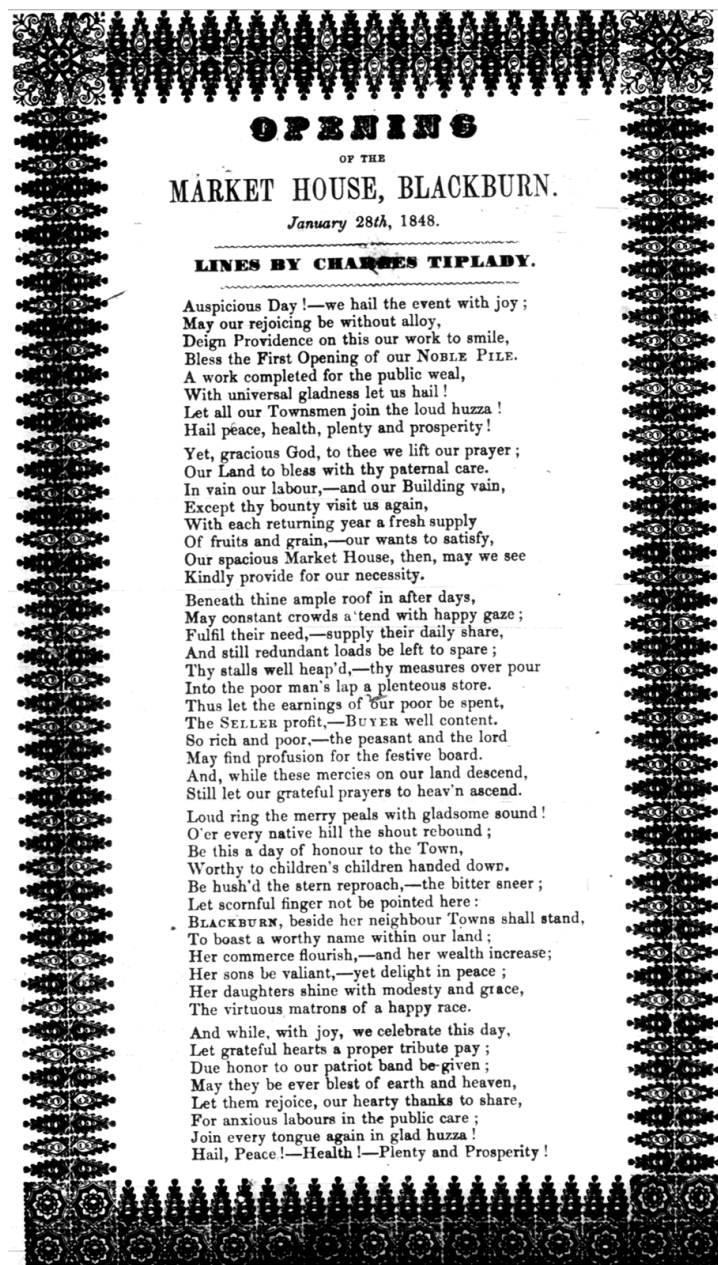
1848

1848 Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, at 1/2 past 6 this Morning my dear wife was safely delivered of a son, whom we have named "Lomax" after my late Brother - She is doing well, for which mercy I am truly thankful

[January] 10<sup>th</sup> & following days - My dear wife has done very badly her whole system has been disordered[?] with fever &c Her right breast has gathered & been a source of severe anguish on the 30<sup>th</sup> it was lanced - I humbly pray she may now recover & be spared to me & her children.

[67]

Jan 28 1848. This witnessed the imposing - and to Blackburn important - ceremony of opening the Market House erected by the Commissioners under the Improvement Act. The structure is neat, handsome & spacious - There was a procession followed by a public Dinner at Garth Hotel. The event was the occasion of my composing the Lines underneath w<sup>h</sup> were received with approbation.



[68]

Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 1848. This being the Anniversary, (20 years) of the Day when I was mercifully preserved from a sudden & dreadful death I sent a thank offering the sum of 10/- to Mrs. Jas Parkinson for the Soup Kitchen. - by R R.

[February] 11<sup>th</sup>. Kerfoot being 21 claimed his liberty - but after 6 days consideration he agreed with me to serve his term i.e. May 1<sup>st</sup>. 1850.

[February] 18<sup>th</sup>. Little "Lomax" was so poorly that, we were obliged to get him baptised by Mr. Beaumont.

Henry Hargreaves, an Apprentice of mine, visited me this day. He is yet very poorly.

M. [March] 18<sup>th</sup> Little Lomax is rather better.

March 21<sup>st</sup> At a quarterly Meeting of the Burial Society held this Evening in the usual Room, a body of chartists attended, and in spite of all remonstrances put a Resolution; to place £500 in the "Land & Labour Scheme Bank".<sup>1</sup> I had to combat the arguments of several speakers but was overpowered, & beaten by a great majority. I of course resigned my office as President of the Society & consider having fully slated my mind that all responsibility is removed from me.<sup>2</sup>

[March] 31<sup>st</sup> I sent the Resolution &c to the Home Secretary of State.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March was appointed in conjunction with with Mr. Rich<sup>d</sup> Townley, Auditor of the public Accounts of the Improvement Commissioners "The following is the Advertisement of the appointment of Day of Audit. Blackburn Improvement Audit of Accounts, We Charles Tiplady, and Richard Townley, the Auditors of the Account for the year 1847 of the Blackburn Improvement Commissioners, do hereby give notice, that on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of March instant at 10 o'clock in the forenoon at the Committee Room in the office of the Commissioners in the old Square, we intend to commence the Audit and Examination of the said Accounts, and to proceed there in from day to day until the business of the Audit shall be completed.

"Any Person interested in the said Accounts either as a Creditor of the Commissioners or as a Rate Payer, may by himself, or his Agent, be present at the said Audit, & may make objections to any part of the Accounts

Blackburn, 6<sup>th</sup> March 1848.

Charles Tiplady  
Richard Townley

April 4<sup>th</sup> 1848 I received as follows from the Right Sir Geo. Grey Secretary of State  
Whitehall, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1848,

Sir I am directed by Secretary Sir George Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ult [Ultimo] and its enclosures on the subject of the disposal of the Funds of the Blackburn Philanthropic Burial Society."

I am, Sir Your obedt [obedient] Servant  
Denis Le Marchant

Mr. Charles Tiplady, Blackburn.

[69]

---

<sup>1</sup> The Chartist leader, Feargus O'Connor, established the National Land Company in 1845 to assist workers to settle on small plots. It collapsed in 1851. As part of O'Connor's plan, the Operatives Sick and Burial Society bought land on which a dozen families settled. Like the National Land Company it failed after three years (Hilton, *Mad, Bad & Dangerous People?*, p. 613; Derek Beattie, *A History of Blackburn* (Lancaster, 2007), p. 177).

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Eccles proposed that the Burial Society's funds be invested in the Land and Labour Bank before George Cowell moved a motion to withdraw £500 for that purpose. After a heated debate the meeting passed Cowell's motion. Tiplady's offered his resignation but it was rejected by the meeting (*Blackburn Standard*, 29 March 1848).

1848

April 5. Sat upon the Grand Jury at the Preston Quarter Sessions, we had upwards of 40 True Bills. Messrs. W. Salisbury, R<sup>d</sup> Radcliffe, E Sansom, & Thomas Thompson were also upon the Jury - we cut 2 Bills

Received at the Bank (April 8) 3 Guineas for auditing the Town's Accounts - (Police) for 1847.

[April] 16 (Sunday) My Wife & myself spent one of the most trying & painful days of our Life, in viewing the dreadful agony of our dear little Son "Lomax" who was seized with a dreadful disorder termed Erythema, or an inflammation of the skin.<sup>3</sup> He rallied a little on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> but lies still very dangerously sick.

[April] 18<sup>th</sup>. The Child yet very dangerously ill - but rather easier.  
Received intelligence of the death of Thomas Sharp of Burnley, my uncle. Sent 5/- towards his funeral.

[April] 22<sup>nd</sup> Little Lomax Died, after suffering severe agony for 10 days. We interred him on the 27<sup>th</sup> at St. John's. - He was a dear & beautiful little infant. - May God give us grace so to live, that in death we may be again united.

May 18<sup>th</sup>. A public Meeting of the Oddfellows was held this Evening to adopt a Petition to obtain legal protection for the Society. - W. H. Hornby Esq<sup>r</sup> in the Chair.

June 5<sup>th</sup> Died this Day, James Neville, Esq<sup>re</sup> of Beardwood, after a few days severe illness. - His loss will be greatly felt in this Town. He was a very active and Zealous Townsman, of truly loyal principles and fervently attached to our protestant Church. In this days of general turbulence & unsettledness of politics - the departure of such a Man as Mr. Neville cannot fail but be a matter of the deepest consequence & involve in it the peace & well-being of the Community.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. 1872 Died Mrs. Neville the widow of the above Gentleman, She was a Miss Hargreaves of Accrington. Her age was 76 years.

[70]

Blackburn, May 24<sup>th</sup>. 1848

My Lord

I have been directed by the So<sup>y</sup> of Oddf<sup>s</sup> [Society of Oddfellows] in this Town to forward to Y<sup>r</sup> [Your] Lp [Lorship] a Petition for presentation to the H [House] of Lords, praying your Lordships to grant legal protection to the So<sup>y</sup>. I forwarded a day or two ago a copy of the Preston Chronicle containing an account of the public Meeting held in this Town on the subject, from wh: your Lordship would be able to ascertain the nature of our request. - We hope the Prayer of the Petition will meet with your views, and we venture to solicit your powerful interest in its favor.

---

<sup>3</sup> Erythema multiforme, a skin reaction usually caused by a virus, is usually mild, passing in a few weeks, but the severe form can affect the eyes, mouth and genitals and can be fatal ('Erythema multiforme', *NHS Health A to Z*, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/erythema-multiforme/> [accessed 23 November 2020]).

June 20<sup>th</sup> The Chartists, as will be seen from the Report underneath, again attempted to get hold of the Burial Society's money, but were frustrated. - The following was inserted in the Preston Pilot, - June 24<sup>th</sup> 1848

# BLACKBURN PHILANTHROPIC BURIAL SOCIETY.

(From our Blackburn correspondent.)

A very important meeting of the above society, which numbers 38,000 members, was held on Tuesday evening, at the Western School, Blackburn. As it had been rumoured that the Chartists intended to propose a resolution, having for its object the investment of £500 in the land and labour scheme, considerable excitement prevailed, and at eight o'clock from 700 to 1000 members had assembled. At half-past eight the business commenced by reading the quarterly report, after which the president (Mr. Townley) made a few appropriate remarks, trusting the members would conduct themselves in a peaceable and orderly manner. A man named Cowell, a Chartist, then stood up, and in a loud and irrelevant speech, made a violent attack on the officers of the society, especially on the trustees, who had protested publicly against the illegal resolution passed in March last. He was succeeded by several speakers in the same strain, who endeavoured to influence the worst passions of their adherents, against the president, vice-president, and board of management, and concluded by moving a resolution—"That the trustees be compelled to pay the expences of such protest." Mr. John Hubertsey and Mr. Francis Wilkinson, in very temperate and well-timed addresses, opposed the resolution, but they were completely overpowered by the clamours of the Chartists, whose general behaviour at the whole meeting was brutal and unruly to the last degree. When the president, by dint of the most persevering and untiring patience, had succeeded in obtaining order, Mr. Adam Wilkinson, one of the trustees, stood up, and in a manly, clear, and straightforward manner, vindicated the course which he and his colleagues had found it expedient to adopt. It was, however, with the utmost difficulty he could obtain a hearing. From what he advanced it appeared, clear as noon-day, that the trustees had acted in strict conformity with the rules. A man of the name of Scott then jumped up, and assailed the officers with the vilest abuse. His speech, of course, had no more connection with the subject in hand, than *Feargus O'Connor's bubble*, but was a loud and noisy harangue in support of the "points," and in condemnation of the "gagging bill," he was most vociferously cheered, and stood down amidst thundering applause. The vice-president, Mr. Charles Tiplady, next essayed to speak, but was met with loud groans, and cries of "Sit down, d-d rascal!" and other complimentary and highly intelligent phraseology. He, however, nothing daunted, stood his ground. So far as could be gathered (owing to the tumult), he was understood to say that he claimed the privilege of addressing the meeting as an officer and a member; and that, in spite of all opposition, he would persevere, if he kept them until midnight; and then he moved an adjournment of the meeting. This announcement was received with tremendous groans, and the most horrible language. The Chartists seeing, however, that Mr. Tiplady would not give up to their physical force demonstration, suffered him to pro-

ceed. He immediately entered into a complete vindication of the trustees, who, he proved by their courageous and timely protest, had been the instruments of preventing £500 of the society's funds being swallowed up by the *grand-land bubble*; and he had no doubt every member would, on a future day, be ready to give the trustees their best thanks for their noble conduct, which, he doubted not, had been the salvation of their £500. It is almost needless to remark that the above assertion called forth from the Chartists another storm of hisses, hootings, curses, and groans; in fact, the uproar was so great, no language can describe it. An attempt was made by one man to pull Mr. Tiplady off the seat, but he threatened the individual with arrest, if he laid a finger on him. The Chartists finding they had caught a tartar, who made fun of their brute force, were glad to enter into a compromise with the vice-president, and allow him five minutes to sum up his arguments. Mr. Tiplady having acquiesced, proceeded at once to challenge the whole Chartist body to canvass any district of the society with him, and he would, he said, beat them thirty to one. He told them, in round terms, their object was unlawful, and if carried, would ruin the society, and while he lived he should feel it his duty to oppose them to the utmost of his ability. He concluded, amid great uproar, by moving that the report be adopted. About twenty individuals rose to reply, but the clamour was so great that nothing definite could be gathered from their speeches. A man named Walsh, with the grossest personality, charged Mr. Tiplady with robbing the society in his printing accounts, and called on Mr. R. W. Smiles, bookseller, to state if that was not the fact. After the vice-president had most emphatically denied the foul slander, Mr. Smiles got up, and in an exceedingly good-tempered and sensible address, pointed out the real objects of the society. He entirely disapproved of the mis-application of the funds, and concluded by stating that, as the printing was done by estimate, open to different persons, it was impossible for any person to rob them of 20 per cent., as was falsely asserted. This statement was a pill of bitter disappointment to the rabble, who instantly roared out, "Shut up," "Sit down," "Five minutes is gone," &c. The president then, it being nearly eleven o'clock, put the resolutions, and declared the former carried, namely, "That the sum of £1 17s. 6d., expences for printing the protest, be paid by the trustees." Of course, the Chartists shot quite wide of their intended aim—the investment of the funds—for the chairman, having received an intimation from the proper authorities to close the school, peremptorily refused to put any further motions, and abruptly quitted the chair. Foiled in their main attempt to get hold of the society's cash, the Chartists made a fierce show of electing a new chairman, but the majority of the meeting having been thoroughly sweated for three mortal hours, thought it no joke to prolong the contest, and were glad to follow the president. Thus ended one of the vilest attempts to ruin a most valuable institution. We are sure our readers will pardon the length of this report, as our object is to expose the *animus* of the so-called friends of the people, and the advocates of the glorious six points of—humbug!

I was hoarse for a week after the Meeting, from heat & exertion.

[71]

1848

Sep 16<sup>th</sup>. Inquest on the body of Richard Anderton the son of Grace Anderton, who was unfortunately killed in a stone Delph, - Mr. Palmer of Preston was the Coroner - I was foreman of the jury verdict, accidental Death.<sup>4</sup>

[September] 19<sup>th</sup>. I did not attend the Q<sup>ry</sup> M<sup>g</sup> of the Burial Society.

Sep<sup>r</sup>. 20<sup>th</sup>. Mem<sup>m</sup>. [Memorandum] - I this day received from Mr. Wraith the sum of £18:0:0 - as proceeds of Rents &c from the Estate of the late William Callis, from the Exor<sup>s</sup>. [Executors].

Sep 20<sup>th</sup> Death recorded in the Times Newspaper - William Henry Tiplady, Esq<sup>re</sup>. Bedford Square London aged 37 years of the eminent firm Phillips Tiplady & Co.

Oct<sup>r</sup> 6 Preparations were made by the executors for selling the property of the late Mr Callis, whereupon Mr Joseph Callis claimed under the Will to take the same at a Valuation. After much discussion Mr Robt Railton for Joseph, and Mr Thomas Duckworth for the family valued the Estate, and to our great surprise did not value it at more than £770, - the consequence a demurrer<sup>5</sup> was set up by the family & Mr. D. [Duckworth] withdrew his Valuation - thus the matter rest

Nov<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> The sublime Oratorio of Joshua was performed.<sup>6</sup> Mr Clough, conducting & Mr Geo. Ellis leading the Band, The performance was exceedingly Brilliant & successful The following critique is from the B<sup>n</sup> Standard.

Dec<sup>r</sup>. 28<sup>th</sup>. - The following account I sent to the Preston Pilot for insertion it was afterwards copied into the Blackburn Standard - When I was appointed Agent, I had a few Bibles aflowed<sup>7</sup> for sale, the Society was deeply in debt. - It has now a stock of £180 0 0 worth of Books, & not fewer than 40,000 Bks in the Depository. I have been Agent since 1833.

**SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.—**  
The thirty-third anniversary of the Blackburn District Committee, was held in the National School, on Thursday morning last. The Rev. Dr. Whittaker, Vicar, presided at the meeting. Beside the rev. chairman, there were present the Rev. Robert Dobson, of Great Harwood; Rev. W. J. Monk, Curate of Blackburn; Rev. Edward Parker, Incumbent of Trinity Church; John Hargreaves, Esq., James Pickup, Esq., and Mr. Tiplady, the society's agent. The meeting was strictly of a business character. From the report read to the meeting, we learn that the society has been very efficient during the year now drawing to a close. The issue of books and useful tracts from the depository amounts to 10,572, viz., Bibles, 465; Testaments, 559; Common Prayer Books, 838; bound books, 509; school books and tracts, 8,199; and exhibits, in comparison with the sale of 1847, an increase of 2,976 books. A condensed summary from the venerable Parent Society's general report was also read, briefly detailing an account of its very extensive and benevolent operations, both in the United Kingdom and throughout the Colonies. At the close of the meeting a resolution was unanimously carried, presenting the Parent Society with a donation of £10 from the funds of the district committee. The cash account having been passed, and the usual resolutions carried, the meeting broke up at half-past twelve, highly gratified with the prosperity and usefulness of this humble branch of one of the oldest and most excellent institutions connected with the Established Church.

<sup>4</sup> Anderton, who was working in a stone quarry, died on 15 September after being struck on the head by a stone thrown down by Thomas Grimshaw for the purpose of loading (*Blackburn Standard*, 20 September 1848).

<sup>5</sup> An objection or exception taken to something: *OED* 'demurrer', n.1 b.

<sup>6</sup> Handel's Joshua, performed by Blackburn Choral Society received a long, favourable review which is no longer included in the diary (*Blackburn Standard*, 29 November 1848).

<sup>7</sup> Flowing, meaning that he had only a limited stock of bibles to sell: *OED* 'aflow', adv. and adj.