

1849

[72]

1849

Lost Anne Certificate of her shares - but sold My Mother & Elizabeth's at an awful Loss. Jan 31st. 1849

These were found three years afterwards.

Feb 9th. Gave Ja^s Beardsworth 5/- to the Thunder Alley School Society - paid also in Comⁿ [Commemoration] of my deliverance.

Received an Account of £100 from the Railway £84 went in calls¹ - John F Hindle died. Feb 7th. Little Richd birthday. What is most remarkable it is the only instance of my ever receiving so large an amount at one time.

Miss Foden married John Margerison² - He had a Daughter called Mary - who was married to James Lomax, watch maker, He had two daughters, Betty & Anne. Betty married Thomas Tiplady - He was my father.

April 23rd 1849. - William Callis, this day, attained his Majority which event gives full power to the Executors to settle the Estates of Mr Callis'. -

The following Letter appeared in the Preston Chronicle on the subject of the Management of the Bolton & Blackburn Railway.³

BLACKBURN, CLITHEROE, AND WEST
YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.
To the Editor of the Preston Chronicle.
SIR,—“A shareholder” in your last paper puts a question to the directors of the above railway, as to whether they intend to publish the names of defaulters. I wish to enquire (being unfortunately in arrears) if the company will not be liable to an action-at-law, *by such publication*? If so is it likely they will do so foolish and cruel a thing?
You must know I am one of those unhappy men who were deluded by the above directors into the belief that a railway could be made between Bolton and Blackburn for a sum not exceeding £350,000; for proof of which statement see their prospectus. Now, you perceive the line has cost *double* that sum; and though it has been open for fourteen miles nearly twelve months, the traffic scarcely suffices to pay the interest of the borrowed money, let alone any interest for the money raised on shares. There are numbers of the shareholders *dissatisfied* with the management; the extravagant outlay on the new station; the high and exorbitant salaries of the engineers, (especially of Mr. Flanagan); the expense of “useless” advertising weekly; the foolish system of building their own carriages, at a greater cost than what they can be purchased for. These, and many other matters, require redress, and the sooner they are attended to the better, or the shareholders will never receive *one penny of interest* during their life-time. It is true, the company have discharged their late secretary and their carriage builder; but the shareholders wish to know why there are two paid engineers, which cost nearly £1,000 per year between them? Now that the line is open to Bolton, depend upon it, at the next half-yearly meeting, some sifting questions will be put by the shareholders; and there are shareholders who will not be withheld from asking them, for fear of the directors or their threat to publish defaulters. Let them do their worst; they cannot ruin some of us worse than we are ruined by such ill-managed speculations.
I am, unhappily,
(And without any intention or desire),
Yours very unfortunately,
A POOR TRADESMAN IN ARREARS.
Blackburn, April 19, 1849.

¹ A stock market term for option to buy assets at an agreed price on or before a date: *OED* 'call' n. 13.b.

² No information has been found for Margerison nor his wife.

³ The next half-yearly meeting did not take place until 27 August 1849 Tiplady asked questions about the cost of engineering, shareholders' arrears and dividends but the meeting did not act on any of these issues (*Preston Chronicle*, 1 September 1849).

[1849]

June 1st. The A M C of the Independent Order of Oddfellows⁴ being this year held in Blackburn. I was requested in consequence of the very dangerous illness of Mr Hanson Dewhurst to act as Secretary pro temp for the occasion. The task was a laborious one, and occupied me most of the week, with the assistance of one or two persons, especially Mr Oliver Roylance, I managed to get through. I give below the proceedings of the last Day of the Meeting. The previous ones being too voluminous for preservation.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Third Edition.</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Conclusion of the A.M.C.</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY—(THIS DAY.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS, M.U.</p> <p>Mr. Daynes introduced the proposition from Norwich, No. 55, respecting an alteration in the 83rd general law, which was unanimously agreed to. He afterwards introduced the proposition No. 106, which was carried with a verbal alteration.</p> <p>The 79th proposition from the same district, that the 144th general law be received. Agreed to.</p> <p>The 82nd, respecting the 148th law, on the subject of Cards, caused some discussion. Proposition was carried with an explanatory note added.</p> <p>The 86th proposition for general law being proposed by Mr. DAYNES—Mr. HEYS wished for the consideration of the whole subject of clearance; and the consideration of the propositions on the subject from Preston, No. 133 and 40.</p> <p>Mr. DAYNES thought it too late in the session, to give it due consideration. Mr. HEYS said that it had been postponed from the last A. M. C. Mr. AITKEN thought they would not be able to go into the whole question. After some discussion the 86th proposition was carried; and the further consideration of the General Question postponed.</p> <p>The proposition No. 100, from Norwich, was afterwards adopted.</p> <p>A recommendation from the Board of Directors to "Legislate anew for the more satisfactory establishment of the Widow and Orphans Institution." Mr. Roe explained the causes which led to the recommendation, but thought it too late to enter into so important a subject this A. M. C.</p> <p>It ended in a recommendation that the subject be considered at the next A. M. C., and that some parties of the Directors would come prepared with a proposition on the subject.</p> <p>Mr. Barrow (Bolton) wished to introduce the 128th proposition from Bolton, regarding the payment of the expenses of going to London to stop the mutilated bill. These expenses it appeared were contracted by the districts interested at their own instigation.</p> <p>Mr. Aitken seconded Mr. Barrow's motion, that the expenses incurred be allowed. He felt convinced that the bill, as altered by committee, would have divided the unity into three or four distinct bodies; and that the best that was in their power had been done to save the unity.</p> <p>Mr. Davidson said that if gentlemen took upon themselves to go to London on their own account, they ought to pay their own expenses. The bill, although of no use to them, could not have done any harm. Other parties, too, had previously stopped it.</p> <p>Mr. Roe explained the operations of the committee of the North London District, which watched the progress of the bill. He was delayed from the 2nd to the 8th of August, and the deputation arrived in the interim and caused the bill to be withdrawn. He thought they had some influence in the matter.</p> <p>Mr. Davidson contended that if they allow parties on their own account go and oppose bills in parliament, and afterwards pay their expenses, they would introduce a very bad precedent. They had better divide the funds at once. He could himself bring a bill for expenses incurred in attending to the same subject. He moved that the amount be not allowed.</p> <p>A long discussion ensued, in which Mr. Glass observed that the board of directors had themselves to submit their authorised proceedings to the auditors and sub-committee for examination, and if found unauthorised or incorrect, would be rejected, however serviceable in themselves. He protested most strenuously against any expenses of the kind being allowed.</p>	<p>Mr. Barrow, of Bolton, at last withdrew the motion. The 131st proposition from Rochdale was introduced, and opposed by Mr. Aitken and others. After some explanation, it was withdrawn.</p> <p>The 49th proposition, from Preston, was introduced by Mr. Heys, respecting the payment of the subscriptions of distant members, who stated the reasons which influenced the district in making the proposition.</p> <p>Mr. Watson seconded the proposition, and corroborated the evidence of Mr. Heys, and mentioned an instance or two of cases which bore upon the question.</p> <p>Mr. Barrow (of Rochdale) moved a negative, which was seconded by Mr. Kirkbride.</p> <p>Mr. Aitken objected to the amount of the fine, and supported the law as it stands.</p> <p>Mr. Barrow (of Bolton) opposed it likewise.</p> <p>Mr. Heys replied to the arguments of the opponents. He did not care to withdraw the amount of fine. It was not the amount of the fine, but the principle he argued for.</p> <p>The proposition was rejected.</p> <h4 style="text-align: center;">DONATIONS TO PUBLIC CHARITIES.</h4> <p>The sum of £10 each was granted to the Ladies' Charity and the Stranger's Friend Society of Blackburn.</p> <p>Mr. Glass moved that a vote of thanks be given to the managing committee of the Blackburn district for their accommodation and warm reception.</p> <p>Mr. Cox seconded it, and it was carried with loud acclamation.</p> <p>Mr. Tiplady returned thanks.</p> <p>Mr. Aitken moved—"That a vote of thanks be given to the gentlemen of the press who have taken so much interest in giving publicity to the proceedings of the A.M.C. of 1849, believing, as we do, that such publicity does much good to the order"—which was carried with acclamation.</p> <p>Mr. Hardwick briefly acknowledged the compliment, and expressed his thanks to the delegates for the kind assistance which had been given to himself and colleagues.</p> <p>Mr. GLASS moved, in a complimentary speech, that the thanks of the meeting be given to the Officers of the Order.</p> <p>Messrs. RICHARDSON and LUFF acknowledged the compliment.</p> <p>Mr. GLASS moved a vote of thanks to Messrs. Roe and Nugent, the assistant secretaries.</p> <p>Mr. NUGENT replied.</p> <p>Mr. GLASS moved a vote of thanks to the tellers, Messrs. Cox and Smith.</p> <p>Mr. Cox responded; after which the meeting dissolved at half-past eleven.</p> <p>The arrangements of the Blackburn District Committee for the convenience of business and for the comfort of the delegates were of the most satisfactory character, and have been the theme of general commendation, more especially the indefatigable exertions of the secretary, Mr. Tiplady, whose zeal and activity in the discharge of his many onerous duties are deserving of the highest praise. The weather has been most favourable during the whole week. Many of the delegates, after the termination of the business, have in the evenings made excursions to Whalley, Hoghton Tower, Preston, and other places of interest in the neighbourhood. The whole of the proceedings have passed off in a manner most satisfactory to all parties. The debates have been conducted throughout the week with the best possible order and good feeling, and the results of the deliberations will, it is thought, give as much general satisfaction to the members of the unity as those of any preceding A.M.C.</p>
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⁴ Annual Moveable Conference: the Oddfellows' governing body.

1849

The River Blackwater having for some time been in a most nauseous & filthy condition so as to become the standing disgrace of the Town, I was induced to write the following Letter to the Editor of the Guardian, who kindly inserted. It is gratifying to remark that in the week following its appearance the Commissioners commenced cleansing the Brook - In my humble opinion however, no effectual remedy will be applied until the Dam at the Old Mill be removed, as the water has not sufficient fall. - When the stream was unadulterated & contact with the various machinery on its margin, this was of little consequence, but now when the water is clogged up, and rendered a complete puddle-hole by accumulation of filth of every description the Dam, or Weir, is a serious evil, and ought to be removed.⁵

THE RIVER BLACKWATER, OF BLACKBURN.
To the Editor of the Guardian.
"Into what pit thou seest;—from what height fallen."—Milton.

Sir,—The inhabitants of this town, I am sure, will feel extremely obliged to you, by allowing a communication to appear in your journal, calling public attention to that abominable nuisance, the *River Blackwater*, which, in its present filthy state, disgraces the place.

That a number of well-meaning, and in other respects highly vigilant public characters, designated "*Improvement Commissioners*," should for any time longer suffer the continuance of this sink-hole,—this bog of public defilement, is beyond my comprehension. Talk of your night soil, indeed! and your slaughter-houses! Why any man going under Darwen street Bridge, at the present moment, would find no difficulty in shovelling up the mud literally by cart-loads. Call you *this* a river, ye men of Blackburn? No, no. It is profanation to use the name. If ever the *cholera* had a suitable nest; or an epidemic a choice location;—surely it will be in your stinking cess-pool, which, still, in self-glorification, you vainly and exultingly, in your public records, call a "*river*." What a preposterous absurdity!

Time was, indeed, when it really deserved that name—when its clear and healthy streams were fit even to quench the thirst of the passing traveller, without suspicion of being poisoned—when trout and other goodly fish basked themselves therein beneath the sunny ray, unobstructed by ropy slime, the washings of beer-barrels, or the thick conglomerations of oil, filth, and cotton waste, which now pollute its bed, rendering it at once unsightly to the eye, horribly offensive to the olfactory nerves, and directly pernicious to the public health.

Yes, sir, though no learned traveller was ever captivated into ecstasies by its pellucid beauties; though no grand historical events are associated with its name; though no love-sick swain made ballads to his "*mistress' eye-brow*," on its margin (except on one occasion, at Cobwall Bridge); or any gay Lothario threatened in a fit of despair to terminate his earthly career beneath its calm unruffled wave, in the event of his suffering the pangs of disappointed love; yet maugre all this want of magiloquent parade, even our river was once the pride of the good people of Blackburn, and an ornament to the town. The busy housewife might once venture to wash her mop therein, nor fear to find an accumulation of reptiles in her washing-tub, or else undergo the useless labour of attempting to whitewash her cottage with ink of the blackest dye.

I look back, sir, with pleasure to those days; when the light-hearted school-boy, released from the dull task and the terrifying ferule, hastened to enjoy his Saturday rambles on its winding pathways; aye, and when the sultry summer's sun from mid-heaven darted his fierce rays around, oh, right pleasant was it to unrobe one's limbs upon the brink, and bathe in its uncontaminated cold flood. And then, sir, how beautiful to stroll by its devious course along the fields to Brookhouse; the rookery of Little Harwood; and on to the confines of Sour-milk Hall Farm. Thence, following its mazy current, we came to Whitebirk. There we sat down on its banks, listening the livelong day to the sweet carolling of the birds; ever and anon refreshing ourselves with copious draughts from the pure liquid, and pulling our homely crust of "*pie* or other prog" from our pockets, feasted away right merrily. Ah! those were happy days. But now, poor "*old brook*," how art thou fallen! No unlucky truant urchin, tempted by thy cooling streams, dares the dread vengeance of the angry pedagogue! I turn in sadness from these pleasant retrospections; and oh! good heavens, what do I now behold!—what a sickening exhibition presents itself!

"Which makes my two eyes like stars
Start from their spheres,"
and every ardent sense of "taste, touch, and smell" revolt in horrible dismay from the polluting contact. In short, the stinking exhalations cause a dimness of sight; a trembling of the brain: my pen has got a dismal tumble in the "*scrub*." I cannot proceed—cannot until somewhat restored to my wonted tranquil equilibrium, discourse further on the most judicious methods to adopt to remedy this *flowing evil*. Bear with me, then, dear sir, if I defer my revelations of improvement, like my fellow-workers the commissioners, to a more convenient season.

The project is a mighty one—let us not proceed too hastily. You shall hear from me again. In the meanwhile let us
"Learn to work slow—all other graces
Will follow in their proper places."

I remain, yours respectfully,
Blackburn, June 6, 1849. ANTI-PEST.

⁵ At a meeting of Blackburn's Improvement Commissioners on 6 July it was reported that some cleaning of the Blackwater had been done but had stopped because the owner of the Old Mill had not made a decision (*Preston Chronicle*, 7 July 1849).

June 30th 1849 My Wife was safely delivered of a Son, at about half-past one this Morning - His name is "Henry". - He is a very weakly child, and the Doctor is of opinion that an organ complaint was born with him. - I thank God for Mary's safe Delivery.

INDEPENDENT
ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS, M.U.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
**ANNUAL MOVEABLE COM-
MITTEE AT BLACKBURN.**

The annual meeting of delegates from the various districts composing this numerous and important body took place this week at Blackburn. From the notice which this society has latterly received at the hands of government, and the general interest with which its proceedings are regarded by numerous and influential parties in every class of society, we have been induced to report its proceedings at some length. The attendance of delegates from the various districts of which the unity is composed, though by no means so numerous as at the A.M.C. held at Southampton last year, was, nevertheless, very considerable. The vast and immediate importance of the principal business which occupied the attention of the deputies at the meeting of 1848, will afford a sufficient reason for the diminution in the number of delegates attending the present committee. At that time the institution was placed in a very precarious position, from the serious defalcations of some of its officers; which was rendered still more alarming to the friends of the order by the rapid progress of an extensively-organized and powerful schism amongst the members themselves. During the present year the usual tranquillity of the order has been fully re-established, and the confidence reposed in the present executive appears to be much more general throughout the body, and of a much more satisfactory character, than that bestowed upon any preceding directory for some time past. The Assembly-room, King-street, had been fitted up specially for the occasion; and a committee, consisting of the following members of the unity, resident in the Blackburn district, had been appointed to provide for the general accommodation of the deputies, viz.:—Lawrence Coupe, P.P. G.M.; George Coupe, D.G.M.; Lawrence Hacking, P. Prov. G.M.; James Roberts, P. Prov. G.M.; W. Lyon, P. Prov. G.M.; B. Hindley, P.G.; W. Durham, P.G.; O. Roylance, P.G.; Charles Boardman, secretary; and C. Tiplady, P.G.—the latter acting as secretary of the district *pro tem.*, in the place of Hanson Dewhurst, C.S., who has been too ill to attend to the duties. By Mr. Dewhurst's unfortunate state of health the district has on this occasion lost the services of a very competent and efficient officer. By the arrangements made by the committee, each deputy on his arrival was met by a messenger at the railway station, and conducted to the committee-rooms, whence he was shown directly to the lodgings provided for him by the committee, by which means all confusion and loss of time was avoided. Mr. Henry Ratcliffe, the C.S. of the order, arrived early on Saturday; the deputies generally had not reached Blackburn till Sunday evening.

The proceedings commenced on Monday morning at nine o'clock. The chair was occupied by J. Richardson, jun., Esq., of Cocker-mouth, the grand master of the order; and the vice-chair by T. Luff, Esq., of Liverpool, the deputy grand master. There were upwards of 100 delegates present at the opening of the meeting.

The General Committee sat at the Assembly-room, King-street, and the various sub-committees were accommodated with convenient apartments immediately contiguous.

[1849]

I was in hope the long-pending and unnatural dispute between the Exors of the late William Callis and Joseph Callis his Son would have been this week terminated. - He agreed in the presence of Mr Atkin and Railton, to allow the valuation to be re-considered, but when Duckworth & Railton met the latter said he had no instructions to proceed. - By this maneouvering they have obtained information of Mr D. [Duckworth] error and think they can obtain some advantage thereby. I am however prepared to prove if called upon that Joseph Callis in the presence of myself, Mr Atkin & Mr Railton voluntarily and of his own free will yielded up the former valuation, and consented to a full and fair re-consideration.

July 13th Visited the Ruins of Sawley⁶ - Ja^s Houker, Leo^d Noblett and Thomas Clough, - The ride was delightful. I had however some difficulty to restrain the Company within decent bounds. The charge at Sawley was very moderate.

Aug^t 19th Went to Gt [Great] Harwood⁷ Charity Sermons, with Sons Charles & Thomas, the Rev^d Mr Sharp preached, it was very throng, got Tea at Mr John Mercer's house, and returned early. The Anthems sung were "Worthy the Lamb" solo & chorus - I will give thanks and, Let your celestial courses to all unite. The chorus well sung.

[August] 20th Balloon Ascent⁸ - This Evening at about 1/2 past Six (fine Evening) a Balloon ascended from the Gas Works Darwen Street. An immense concourse of people witnessed it - The wind was W. S. W. and the Balloon took the direction of Accrington. I suppose there would not be less than 25000 people.

[1849]

Ordination of Priests & Deacons at Blackburn. - Oct 21st 1849. This important Ceremony took place on Sunday Morning last as above. The Right Rev^d James Prince Lee, the Lord Bishop of Manchester officiated - Dr Whittaker, Vicar of Blackburn, was also present and preached the ordination Sermon. - The Bishop preached in the Evening, & Collections were made in support of the New Girls' Charity School, amounting to £31:0:0 His Lordship's discourse was very eloquent, and delivered in a very clear & forcible manner; to a very crowded Congregation.

Took the purple Degree I O F M U [Independent Odd Fellows Manchester Unity] - password Job - at the House of Mrs F. [Fielding] Knuzden Brook Inn Oct 28th 1849 PGM L. Coupe DGM Geo Coupe, W^m Feilden, C Greenwood, John Barlow, L. Hacking, W. Durham & others present. - The pass Word the name of the "most patient Man".

Nov 26th Began to alter the front Window - plate Glass. finished Dec 31. - Looks a deal better.

'Diary for one week'

Dec 30 Sunday Attended the parish Church Sermon by the Rev Mr J Monk on behalf of the Christian Knowledge Society "The word was made flesh" a good discourse & well handled. - In the Evening at St John's Ch: Sermon to the Young by Mr Wheeler. Collection for the Church Expenses 38:0:0 - at the parish 7:3:0. At home with Mother & all my Bro^s & Sisters - for about an hour so to wife & bed.

⁶ The ruins of a 12th century Cistercian abbey about 5 miles north east of Clitheroe.

⁷ A small town about 5 miles north east of Blackburn.

⁸ The gas-filled balloon, piloted by Mr Green and with one passenger, flew to near Accrington railway station. This was the first balloon flight from Blackburn since 1828 (*Blackburn Standard*, 22 August 1849).

[December] 31. Monday - At ten went down to the Vicar; he very ill of the Rheumatic Gout; finished the year's accounts with him belonging the Society and prepared for the Meeting wh was held in the House of S. Feilden, the Schoolmaster of Girls' Charity School present Rev^d Tho^s Sharples, Rev^d R Dobson, Rev W J Monk, Mr Pickup, Mr Beardsworth & myself. The following printed paragraph will show the state of Bⁿ Depository & its operations.⁹

[78]

[1849]

In the Afternoon of the same Day attended the Oddfellows District Meeting at Mr Fisher's King Street, and was chosen Treasurer of the District for 1850. - In the Night was invited to supper at W^m Feilden with a party of Twenty, - acted as vice chairman & retired after a pleasant hour at Eleven - Cost me - 3/6^d.

⁹ Tiplady left space on the page but printed extract has not survived.