

1850

Tuesday. Jan. 1 1850. New Year's Day - a fine frosty Day and likely to continue - busy with Christmas Bills - In the Evening attended St John's Female Friendly Society and home early after calling for a few moments at the Temple of Friendship Lodge.

Wednesday, Jan 2nd The frost still continuing.

Monday. Jan 7th The Club Day - attended Dinner - at the Bull Inn, about 70 dined - The Society has not done so prosperously as could be wished having lost £54.0.0 The Meeting was not a pleasant one.

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Tuesday Jan 8th. Agreed to go in the Afternoon to Rishton Reservoir; - a very strong frost with snow underfoot - The party consisted of H^y. Tattersall, T H Pickup, Rt Walker, and myself - Had a very pleasant afternoon - Rt W & H T very good skaters - saw several upon the Reservoir, which was completely covered with ice 3 to 4 inches in thickness, returned home a 5 o'clock - No Meeting tonight.

1860 Hy Tattersall & Robert Walker long since dead.¹

Feb 8 to 12th These last four days have been occupied in discussions respecting a certain agreement, leaving some disputes to the Arbitration of Thomas Hart & Christopher Parkinson. I signed on the 13th. Ash-Wednesday. - On the 10th I wrote to the Executors in the following terms

Blackburn, Feb. 10th 1850

Dear Sir/

Though I do now, and ever shall consider the Valuation of the late Mr Callis' property a most unfair and dishonourable transaction; and I wish to be distinctly understood that I do not concur [sic] in it; yet considering the manifest improbability of all the Members of the family agreeing to a Re-valuation; -²

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¹ Entry added later by Tiplady.

² Tiplady did not complete his transcription of the letter.

Feb 14. First annual Dinner of Trade Protection Society³ was held this Day at Mr Birch's St Leger's Inn, Mr Montague Feilden in the Chair - Mr Fowler Vice-chair, A very happy and pleasant party - but rather expensive - I was called upon by the Chair to respond to a Toast. Did not do it so well as I sometimes do - The Gent present were Messrs. M. Feilden, J. Sturdy, Mr Sheppard, Mr Clarke, Editor of the Standard, Mr Roebuck, the Editor of the Guardian, Mr Manchester of Preston, Messrs. J Gate, E Healey, H Tattersall, W Brooks, J Constantine, J Beardsworth, J Webster, C Tiplady, E Fowler, H^y Briggs, R Hartley, R. N. Marshall, T. Duckworth, R. Barlow, T. Livesey, R Walker, W. Hirst, Tho^s Hart, O Roylance, John Dean, R. Woolfall, J. Callis, W. Smith, W. Thwaites, J Pye, Jas Forest, J Riley, R. Parkinson, and other, - Left at one o'clock.

[February] 22nd In consequence of my printing a placard Headed 'the Sweating System', calculated to injure Mr Turner of Bⁿ. I was this day served with "a Writ" and though the Tailors would defend it - I was advised not to allow it to go to a Trial - the evidence being paltry. - I went to Preston with Mr Leonard Wilkinson on the 6th Day of March, and settled the business - The Tailors upon this were in a great rage at me, as having made them into public liars, by denying the Allegations of the placard. The whole affair besides loss of time, anxiety and other inconveniences cost me £52:0:0 which the Tailors refused to pay. - This is not the first time I have been led into an Error by the over officiousness of William Durham, at whose request, I printed the Bill.⁴

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March 28th The remaining part of Mr Callis's property was sold at the following prices

House & Shop Penny Street	360:0:0
House, Shire brow	35:0:0
Pew, in St John's Church	14:0:0
£	<u>409:0:0</u>

³ Trade Protection Societies were created throughout the United Kingdom to help retailers reduce risk from fraud and to provide legal assistance in prosecuting fraudulent debtors. The first society, the Guardians, was formed in London in 1776 but it was not until 1823 that a society was established in Liverpool. After that societies were created in Manchester (1826), Hull (1827), Beverley (1834), Birmingham (1845), the West Riding of Yorkshire (1848) and Leicester (1849). In 1850 local societies began meet annually to co-ordinate activities and share information but a National Association was not formed until 1866 (Margot C. Finn, *The Character of Credit: Personal Debt in English Culture, 1740-1914* (Cambridge, 2003), pp. 289-90).

The Blackburn Guardian Society for the Protection of Trade was established on 15 February 1849. By February 1850 it had 67 members around Blackburn and was in contact with 21 other societies throughout England with whom information was exchanged to protect the interests of businesses. The Blackburn Society provided a debt collection department which had acted on 120 applications. Mr E. Fowler chaired the meeting, Montague Feilden presided over the dinner that followed. The members chose Tiplady as a member of the committee (*Blackburn Standard*, 20 February 1850).

⁴ Tiplady printed an advertisement against 'the Sweating System', on behalf of the journeymen tailors of Blackburn, after James Turner moved from Preston to open a tailoring business in Blackburn. The tailors accused Turner of planning to put out work to people who worked at home rather than employing people to work on his premises. They feared putting out work was 'calculated to strike at the very foundations of the health, domestic comfort, and just interest of a numerous but impoverished portion of their fellow-men' and undermine current rates of pay and means of settling disputes for journeymen tailors. Turner published an advertisement in the *Blackburn Standard* on 20 February 1850 refuting the accusations to which Tiplady replied on 27 February in the same newspaper, after Turner had served a writ on him, stating he printed the placards 'as a matter of trade and business'. On 13 March, following Turner's legal action, Tiplady published in the *Blackburn Standard* an apology to Turner stating he was 'firmly convinced that the allegations... [were] entirely false, and without foundation' (*Preston Chronicle*, 16 February 1850, *Blackburn Standard*, 20 and 27 February, 13 March 1850).

It was considered a good & fair sale, I could have bid higher but consider the above quite the value.

Good Friday Visited James Kerfoot, who now lies dangerously ill, & not likely to recover - He expressed sorrow for his misconduct - The poor young Man died at 7 o'clock the following Morning - Aged 23. - He was interred at St John's on Thursday the 4th of April.

Monday Ap. 1. - Short time Committee,⁵ - paid over to the Treasurer £8:0:0 being a Donation from John Livesey, Esq^r.. Great Tea party at St John's - where the Wife of Mr Wheeler had a portrait of her husband presented to her.

[April] Tuesday - 16th Annual Meeting of the St John's Female Friendly Society - about 300 sat down to Tea. - Mrs Hart presided.

[April] Wednesday. - The public Meeting of the Ten Hour's Act was held this Day at Darwen. I attended as a Deputation with, John Gardner & Andrew Wade. - A good Meeting but very hot Night - There were about 8 from Bolton. There were refreshment at Mr Hutchinson's - Rev^d. H. Dunderdale in the chair.

T[April] Thursday - The Soirée of the Bⁿ. Mechanic's Institution took place. Mrs C. Tiplady had a Tray I was engaged by the Com^{tee} to read the annual Report to the Meeting - A very pleasant night.⁶

April 26th - The 96th Anniversary of the Subscription Bowling Green was held. There was a large attendance of Members, among the Guest present were W H Hornby Esqre, John Alston, J Smithson, W Sames, D Nicol, R Ainsworth, H Tattersall, R Ashton, R Baines, Robt Baron, R^d Haworth, Ja^s Haworth, Guest Vickers, Tho^s Dutton & many others - on the motion of T Dutton seconded by Jno Alston, C. Tiplady was appointed chairman, - Mr Bywater & Mr Bramley looked over the Account wh: being found correct were unanimously passed.

Mr Tho^s Bennett was elected Steward

The entrance Fee was increased to 2 Guineas

The Rules were ordered to be revised.

A Committee of 7 persons were selected to perform that duty viz, - J Alston, R Ashton, C Tiplady, T Pickup, R Howarth, - T Dutton, and J Bywater.

Hugh Seed was appointed Servant of the Green at a salary of 10/- per week.

The two sums of £5 were ordered to be paid forthwith which had been last years voted to the L. [Ladies] Charity & Stranger F [Friend] Society.

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May. 13th The day on which Joseph Callis paid the purchase money (found by W. Forrest) for the property in Salford and Penny Street, as under

Salford	772:16:0
Penny St	<u>360:0:0</u>
	<u>1132:16:0</u>

⁵ Short Time Committees, to campaign for laws enforcing shorter working hours for factory workers, were formed by operatives in Lancashire from at least 1831. Such a committee existed in Blackburn in September 1835 when it organised a public meeting in support of the 'Ten Hours' Bill', whose speakers included the Yorkshire campaigner for factory reform, Richard Oastler. Even though the Factories Act of 1847 limiting the working hours of women and children in textile mills a meeting in support of the 'Ten Hours' Bill' was held in Blackburn on March 1850. Those who attended included the owner and manager of Brookhouse mill, W. H. Hornby and W. E. Taylor, local clergy as well as Tiplady. On 20 March, at a public meeting against the relay and shift system, used by some millowners to avoid the legal obligations of the Ten Hour Act, Tiplady presented a petition signed by supporters of the Act, organised by the Short Time Committee. After a vote, the meeting sent the petition to be presented in parliament (*Manchester Times*, 29 October 1831; *Preston Chronicle*, 23 March 1850; *Blackburn Standard*, 21 September 1836; 27 March 1850).

⁶ This was the fourth annual festival of Blackburn Mechanics' Institute held at the Assembly Rooms, Heaton Street (*Blackburn Standard*, 10 April 1850).

I also this day took the Premises from Mr Dutton, which I now occupy in Church Street for a Lease of 14 years at £34:0:0 per annum. - His maintaining the outside & I the inside in proper in proper repair.

This year completed our Twentieth year's occupation. I paid for the lease £3:0:0

[May] On the 12th Mrs Swails, wife of E Swails, Librarian, Died and left a large family.

July 2nd The Greatest Statesman of his day, Sir Robt Peel died, after 2 days lingering from the effects of a serious fall from his horse.

July 22nd In the presence of Mr Kenyon, Mr Wraith, Mr Charles Callis, & William Tattersall, received the Legacy from the Estate of William Callis, amounting to £148:7:10 including the share for Nancy.

Sept^r 29th The Short Time Committee held their last Meeting at the Rechabites Hall, when the Accounts were audited & settled.⁷ -

Sept 1st At Skipton and at Bolton Abbey - Very large market for Cattle at Skipton, it was a glorious, fine Day. - The ride to Bolton was pleasant, tho' I was not well, I never saw finer scenery in my Life. Got Tea with Mr Tasker, who was very kind, & also his Son.

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Meetings from Sep^r. 23rd to 29th &c

Monday - none

Tuesday. Audit of Oddfellows, - at Tho^s Hitchen's in King Street, - until 10 o'clock - then to Choral Society. - Angel

Wednesday, (25th.) Quarterly Meeting of the Loan Society at Feilden's Arms - Leyland Street - Society very prosperous. P. Little captious & uncomfortable - C [Choral] Society at 10

Thursday (26) at Over Darwen, Gas Comp^y as Director present E. S. J. B. J. G. J. G. W. J. J. W. & self - Motion for reducing the price of Gas. agreed that the price should be 6/6 up to 50,000; 5/6 50 to 100,000 - 5/- 100 to 150,000 - 4/6 150 to 170,000, & above that quantity, 4/- per 1000 feet. Left Darwen at ¹/₄ to Nine o'clock, and was thus prevented from attending public Meeting of Ratepayers in Blackburn, where I understand the New Act was agreed to be introduced for the Rating of Small Tenements.⁸

(27) Down to the Subscription Library, which I am sorry to say is in a miserable Condition, - in debt, without funds, and obliged to remove from the present Central situation, Mr Lund in the chair. It was agreed that an Advertisement for a New Librarian & New Premises should be inserted in the Standard. Left at ¹/₂ Eight, then went down to Mr Hoole's, where I inspected the Plans for the New Town Hall. - They are very beautiful, and the Pile of Buildings will be an ornament to the Town - Left at ¹/₂ Nine, & had a sandwich at Mrs Houlker's where I fell into Company with Mr Kenworthy & others, for an hour or two. - He talking of going to America, which I do not credit -

(28) Heard this Morning from my Wife of the unexpected and lamented Death of Henry Grimshaw, a very old friend to me and one whom I highly respected. He had done business with us ever since we began business. - This report was not true.

28 (29) Was glad to hear that H. G. was living - Down to the Loan Society in the Evening where a dispute arose by A. E. respecting an allowance to his Wife, I thought him very selfish & refused to comply. -

⁷ This was after the passing of a further Factory Act in August 1850 limiting the working hours of women and young person to 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an extension to ten and a half hours working time, Monday to Friday, and 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

⁸ The meeting was on the implementation of the Small Tenement Rating Act, 1850, in which the owners of properties valued at £6 and under paid the rates not the tenants. Ratepayers were polled on implementation even though not to do so would have broken the law (*Blackburn Standard*, 2 October 1850).

(30) Sunday - Parish Church Morning & Evening - Mr Wheeler, in the Evening - preached his favorite Doctrine of Election, which I look upon as rank fatalism - His Sermon made a sensation in the Town

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Monday Sep 30th Attended the District Meeting of Oddfellows as Treasurer - very uncomfortable squabbling, W. Fielding & others voted factiously - The Directories were given to Tho^s Woods - I left at 1/2 past five from Ewood Bridge & came to the Assembly Room, where the Poll was about Commencing - Having been appointed a Scrutineer with Mr R Edmondson, Chandler. After some arrangements had been entered into the poll commenced & was kept up with spirit until nine o'clock at which time the numbers stood as follows -

For the introduction of the New Rate	158
Against it	<u>9</u>
Majority	<u>149</u>

The poll was then adjourned until Tuesday Oct^r 1st 1850 when the entire numbers stood then

For &c	295
Against	<u>21</u>
Majority	<u>274</u>

On Wednesday the Act was declared carried - Thanks were voted to the chairman, scrutineers &c

[October] Saturday the 5th The Letter "Philo" in the Preston Chronicle on the Alley's Spring was mine⁹ - so in the Standard the week following "A Lover of Justice" on the same subject.¹⁰

[October] Monday, the 7th Tradesmen's Club. The cases of John Farrar and William Aspinall entertained. The latter one referred to Arbitration. The Arbitrators were John Biggar, Moses Sharples, Thomas Hart, and they appointed to meet on Friday night - A pleasant Night was spent.

[October] Thursday the 10th My Wife and myself visited Whalley to see little Charles our son.¹¹ From there we went to Whitewell in Yorkshire. The day was fine up to 4 p.m. when a wet night set in - The Rev L. Preston kindly drove us thither in a vehicle from Whalley - We got a few nuts and spent the day happily.

[October] Friday The Arbitrators decided that William Aspinall should not commence receiving pay until August 6th 1853.

Dec^r. 19th. My Wife was delivered of a Daughter "Esther" she did pretty well untill [sic] her Breast gathered.¹² - The children came home to Christmas, - Charles from Whalley - Willie & Rich^d from Bury. - They afterwards returned to those places.

⁹ Alley's Spring, or All Hallows Spring, was near to Blackburn railway station and not far from Tiplady's house on Mount Street. In his letter Tiplady complained about pollution of the spring by poor drainage from Blackburn Railway Station then suggested a solution (*Preston Chronicle*, 5 October 1850).

¹⁰ Tiplady, in his letter to the *Blackburn Standard* made a similar complaint to the one in the *Preston Chronicle* but provided more details claiming that the spring was used as a source of water by poorer inhabitants and the pollution had resulted since the construction of the road to the station (*Blackburn Standard*, 9 October 1850).

¹¹ In the 1851 census Charles Lomax Tiplady was recorded as a boarder at Whalley Grammar School.

¹² To develop a suppurating swelling: *OED* 'gather' v. 19.b.