

1852

Thursday, the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1852 New Years Day Audit of the Oddfellows Accounts.

Friday – The Meeting of the Victoria Benefit Building Club.

March 1<sup>st</sup> 1852. Appointed as Auditor to the Corporation in company with Mr Blakey which office I hold over year, and declined proceeding any further.<sup>1</sup>

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Loan Societies

19<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1852

Sir/

On references to 3 & 4 Victoria c 110, s 9, you will find that Loan Societies may issue debentures for money deposited: but by s. 10 no Treasurer, Trustee or other Officer is responsible for the payment of the Money lent, unless such Treasurer &c shall declare his willingness to be so liable<sup>2</sup>

Your's faithfully

J. Tidd Pratt<sup>3</sup>

Mr W. Durham

Memo<sup>n</sup> [Memorandum] Borrowed of the Widow & Orphan Funds the sum of One Hundred Pounds for two years, 5 per cent. Trustees:- William Feilden, George Cowpe - Lawrence Kenyon, Lawrence Hacking and John Barlow, witness W. Durham- 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1852 -

[February] 18<sup>th</sup> Following Day in the Afternoon visited my Sons William & Charles at Whalley, whom I found well, and same Day paid Sister in law in Law the sum of £55:0:0 her residue of the Stock.

[February] 19<sup>th</sup> The long lost Scrip<sup>4</sup> was this day found with my Deeds - Paid sisters their Money £50.<sup>5</sup>

March

31<sup>st</sup> Sold 10 Darwen Shares @ £5:10:0 for the account per Jno Ratcliffe

[March] 29<sup>th</sup>. Was surprised at being displaced from the office of Treasurer of the Oddfellows without notice, - Note We ought always to be ready to give an account of our stewardship - 31<sup>st</sup> Paid into W<sup>m</sup> Lyons hands the District Accounts (M U [Manchester Unity]) except the Hearts of Oak which I hold until Midsummer

22<sup>nd</sup> March, - Young William Hart disappeared in a most unaccountable & mysterious manner, - He was last heard of at the Preston Station.

[March] 29<sup>th</sup> Was appointed Deputy for the next A M C at Carlisle for 31<sup>st</sup> May.

28<sup>th</sup> April - After an excessive Drought of 70 Days the Wind changed from East to South & West, and we had Rain today, Wednesday. It is said there never were more Vessels waiting outside the Channel for Change of Wind than ever was known before

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<sup>1</sup> The *Preston Chronicle* concluded its report on the elections thus: 'in several instances the persons elected knew nothing of their appointments until "all was over," and they do not relish the honour' (*Preston Chronicle*, 6 March 1852).

<sup>2</sup> Pratt referred to paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Loan Societies Act, 1840.

<sup>3</sup> John Tidd Pratt (1797-1870), barrister and civil servant, was appointed consulting barrister to the national debt commissioners in 1828 and an act of that year gave him the duty of certifying the rules of saving societies. In 1835 his responsibilities extended to include certification of the rules of loan societies (1835) and building societies (1836). Because of his extended duties he was given a salary, clerks and a permanent office (Peter Gosden, 'Pratt, John Tidd (1797-1870)', *ODNB*).

<sup>4</sup> A share certificate: *OED* 'scrip' n.4 l.a.

<sup>5</sup> See 31 January 1849.

Was at a Raffle and lost. Afterwards they got to shaking under & over, I much regretted, though I won or lost nothing - still the example was bad.<sup>6</sup>

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May 12<sup>th</sup>. Died, old Mr James Hamer, formerly a Cotton Manufacturer, aged 92 years. He was supported by an Annuity from different Gent<sup>n</sup>. [Gentlemen] and had long out lived all his old friends except H<sup>y</sup> Sudell, Esq<sup>re</sup> who still remains in his 89<sup>th</sup> year.

[May] 10<sup>th</sup> Geo Holme, aged 51, an upright Man, and a Man of great intelligence.

[May] 13<sup>th</sup> Died W H Morrice, Esq<sup>re</sup> formerly a Bookseller, a Man of a cheerful deportment, and a bon vivant. He took the traffic for the main lines in this Neighbourhood.

May 25<sup>th</sup> 1852. Having this Day discharged the remaining responsibilities in regard to my late Brother William, I think it my duty now after Eight years incessant Toil, to review my finances pro & con

		£
Money from Widow & Orphans		100:0:0
Henry Kenyon		200:0:0
Mother & Sisters		60:0:0
Other Contingencies - H <sup>s</sup> [Hearts] of Oak		20:0:0
		380:0:0
Cash yet due to the Stock		380:0:0
		760:0:0
Credit Three House	£550:0:0	
Six Gas Shares	90:0:0	
4 Building Shares &	25:0:0	675:0:0
Loan Societies	10:0:0	
	675:0:0	£85:0:0
New Railway Shares say		20:0:0
		£65:0:0

May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>. Attended as Deputy for the Blackburn District at the A.M.C. [Annual Moveable Conference] M.U. [Manchester Unity] - was elected on the Sub committee, along with Mr Revil, Birmingham, Schofield of Bradford, - Wyld of Oldham, Burgess of S. London, - M<sup>c</sup>Dougal of Greenock, and Hickton of Stockport. Lodged at the Union Inn, Citadel Row - After the AMC concluded visited Newcastle & Durham, - only cut a poor figure in debate, had no freedom of speech, and think I was damaged by having W<sup>m</sup> Feilden for my colleague [sic] - He at time rude and unsteady.

#### Election of 1852 - Thursday July 8<sup>th</sup> 1852

The turmoil of the Election is just concluded, and the Conservatives have suffered a signal defeat. The Candidates were -

James Pilkington Esq.	845
William Eccles, Esq <sup>re</sup> .	580
John Hornby, Esq <sup>re</sup> ,	509

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<sup>6</sup> Under and Over Seven: a gambling game played with 2 dice (John Ashton, *Social England Under the Regency Vol. 1* (London, 1890), p. 357).

Every species of falsehood, bribery, intimidation & co-ercion was resorted to - in order to gain the [sic], but the most glaring was the parading a Big Loaf - & Little Loaf - labelled Hornby's Loaf and Pilkington's Loaf<sup>7</sup> - JH had 220 Plumpers.<sup>8</sup>

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Sep<sup>r</sup> 9. 1852. Since the Election death has made great inroads among the Tory party the following having deceased

Mr John Lewis, Grocer,

John Alston, Gent<sup>n</sup>.

" Tho<sup>s</sup> Bolton, Gent<sup>n</sup>

James Forrest, Cotton Spinner

" James Haworth, Draper

John Pemberton, Farmer

On the 26 Aug<sup>t</sup> Mrs Livesey, wife of the Sexton of the parish Church was killed by falling down stairs at Mrs Cliff. Mrs Cliff died shortly after.

Sep<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Oddfellows, proposed for Prov G M<sup>9</sup> of the District, a rather fractious Meeting.

[September] 28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Auditing with Mr Mitchell the Books of the Econ<sup>l</sup> [Economical] Loan Society, - Books very carelessly kept by the Secretary.

[September] 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Provident Loan Society, passed the Accounts, Tho<sup>s</sup> Greenwood in the Chair - 15 shares sold 5 @ 2/6 5 @ 2/8 & 6 at 2/10. Realised 15 per cent.

Oct 20<sup>th</sup> This Day we lost, by death, our excellent and beloved Mother, after a severe illness of four months. She died perfectly happy & resigned in her 76<sup>th</sup> year.

Oct 26<sup>th</sup> We interred our respected and venerable Mother this Day at the parish Church Blackburn - There were present Members of our Family besides Cousins Ratcliffes & Sharps viz

Brother James & Maria, - with Eliz<sup>h</sup>. James, William, John and Mary Anne their children Sarah from Manchester

Myself and Mary with Thomas, Charles William, Richard, Frances, Henry and Esther our children

Anne, Elizabeth, Margaret and Jane our Sisters

John and Sarah from Bury - Jane William's Widow

After the Funeral I read Mothers Will, which was satisfactory

#### 1852 and 1853 Great Storm

The Christmas & New Year was ushered in with some of the most tremendous Storms of Wind & Rain experienced for 20 years. - On Christmas Eve, & the day following but one Great Damage was Done The Storm seems to have been general throughout England. - In Blackburn, Preston, Lytham, Blackpool & Fleetwood the severity was great. At the two latter Towns & Sea Ports such a dreadful never before was remembered. - The storm was divided into two periods, commencing on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> until Noon on Christmas Day, then lulled until Sunday Evening

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at Six, and so increasing in violence again from that hour until 5 o'clock on Monday Morning when it was both dreadful & fearfully dangerous. From the middle of October when the Autumn ended until this day (Jan 15<sup>th</sup>) we have had a succession of rainy weather with scarcely any fair day - & only 2 night-frosts in the Winter.

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<sup>7</sup> The large and small loaves probably represented the candidates support for Free Trade. At the 1852 election in Stoke-on-Trent, a crowd of Free Trade supporters paraded an immense loaf baked from 32 stones of flour (Angus Hawkins, *Victorian Political Culture 'Habits of Heart & Mind'* (Oxford, 2015), p.160).

<sup>8</sup> Someone who voted for one candidate in a constituency where voters had two votes: *OED* 'plumper' n.2 2. 225 voters plumped for Hornby, including Tiplady (*Blackburn Standard*, 14 July 1852).

<sup>9</sup> Provincial Grand Master or District Chairman.

Dec<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Elected G.M. of the District. W Holt after a Contest D.G.M<sup>10</sup>  
[December] 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Loan Society - Interest 18% Elected with J  
Ratcliffe, Auditor.  
[December] 21<sup>st</sup> Elected a Member of the Board of the Philanthropic Burial Society.

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<sup>10</sup> Deputy Grand Master or Deputy Chairman.