

1856

The year 1856 was ushered in with fine open Weather - but about the 8th of Jan. we had hard frost wh: continued until the 15th.

Feb. 21st Great sensation in the Town on account of James Kenyon being transported for Life for Manslaughter. This was the same man upon whose Wife's Death I sat as foreman of the Jury in Sept last.

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On the 26th Jan^y. Died most awfully sudden Mr W M Perfect, a most respected Gentleman.

[January] Diary - Sunday the 27th church Morning (Parish) Let your Light so shine - Afternoon & Evening at Home reading Lewis & Clarks Travels¹

Monday poorly from the Effect of cold. Auding [Auditing] the Economical Loan Society's Books. Bad case.

[January] Tuesday - (29th.) Again down at the Loan Society, - the President, - Secretary & Innkeeper - all in Debt - & repudiating the same.

[January] Wednesday (30) Annual Meeting of Provident Loan Society. Dividend £5 per cent from there to the Economical Dividends £5 per cent - here appointed on the Committee.

[January] (31) Thursday Annual Meeting of Widows & Orphan's Society S.O.F.M.U. [Society of Oddfellows Manchester Unity] attended - re-elected Treasurer for the 7th time. - Grants £27:19:0 - Meeting of Committee of Tradesman's Protection Society attended. This Day also walked in procession at the funeral of W. M. Perfect about 100 Gents^s walked including the Mayor, Magistrates, Union Club, and Many Gents - of the Corporation & Tradesmen of the Town. A very upright Gentleman.

Feb. 1 Building Society Meeting attended - along with Messrs. T Ibbotson & J. Gregson.

Cold increased on Sunday Monday & Tuesday so much as to confine me to the House Son Thomas called (Feb. 5.) collecting for Messrs. Dobson & Sons Preston, I did not see him.

The following is my financial position 1856

	£	s	d
Cash owing Mr Kenyon's Trustees	100:	0:	0
" Rent Bag	60:	"	"
Sisters old Account	54:	"	"
Shares of Stock (4) £40	160:	"	"
	£374:	"	"
Cash owing Building	420	0:	0
paid	105:0:0		
profit	50:0:0	155	" "
	£155:0:0	£265	" "

Jan^y Audit, 1856.

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¹ Between 1804 and 1806 Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led an official expedition on behalf of the United States government to the source of the Missouri and then across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific coast. A two-volume history of the expedition was published in 1814, which could be what Tiplady read: *History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark etc.*, Paul Allen (ed.) (Philadelphia, 1814).

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[February] The adjourned Meeting was held on the 24th. and I got a very severe cold by attending

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March 7th Mr Charles Boardman Painter died, after an awfully short illness of four hours. His death struck consternation into the minds of his sorrowing friends & relatives. He was in his 33rd year. (33)

[March] On the 11th his Mortal remains were conveyed to their last resting place in St Peters Yard and the sorrowing lamentations of relatives & friends - The Corpse was attended first by the pupils of the Free Grammar School headed by the chief Master then followed a body of Free Masons of which craft the deceased was a Master then came the immediate friends of Poor Charles among whom I walked then the Corpse & relatives closed the mournful cortege. The Organ was played by Mr Robinson in a very affective style, & the whole proceedings were marked by deep solemnity.

Thus passed to an early Tomb one of the bright ornaments of the Town. He had been elected Governor on the last Annual Meeting of the Grammar School and was a Councillor for St Peter's Ward - for remarks in the paper see previously -

Monday, March 24th Easter Fair, a vast Multitude of people in the Town. - Amusements such as is usual at Fairs were numerous & profitable.

[March] 25th. The Annual Meeting of the Female Friendly Society - favourable Report. Increase in Funds £75:12:0 & total Balance £860:8:0 My Son Charles assisted Mr Hart. I went to Manchester on the League Business but could not do any Business - as Mr Pratt refused to sanction the appointment of the Committee

[March] 26th Mr Walkden's failure announced

[March] 27th At Over Darwen Gas Meeting of the Directors. - Thompson Walkden & Johnson absent.

[March] 27th was very ill of a cold got in Manchester. - Mr Wilding gave me authority to communicate to the Family that he was ready to make a first Division of Monies under Mr Lomax' Will viz £800.

[March] 30th Sunday Morning. Parish Church - excellent discourse by Mr Kershaw on the rebellion of Korah, Dathan & Abiram - Evening (Trinity) The duty & privilege of reading the Scripture.

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April 3rd Thursday - This Day is Memorable as being the time when a portion of the Money left us by Grandfather Lomax was divided between the families of Tiplady & Ratcliffe. After innumerable delays and consultations with Mr Wilding Solicitor we agreed to divide £1,800 in the following manner

Tiplady	£	s	d	Ratcliffe	£	s	d
1 James Lomax Tiplady	90	-	-	Tho ^s Ratcliffe Senior			
2 Sam L Tiplady				Adm ^s for James			
Trustees &				Ratcliffe deceased	112	10	
Executors for				D ^o for Elizabeth	16	1	5
Angelina} £30.0.0				D ^o for Ellen	18	15	0
Celina} 30.0.0	90	-	-	John Ratcliffe 1/8	147	6	5
Virginia} 30.0.0				Mary Anne Stones			
3 Mary Tipladys				Wife of Geo Stones	147	6	5
Administrator	90	-	-	Robert Ratcliffe	147	6	5
4 Anne Tiplady	90	-	-	Thomas Ratcliffe			
5 William Tiplady's				Junior	147	6	5
Trustees for his				Margaret Margerison			
Grandchild	90	-	-	Boardman Adm	147	6	5
6 Charles Tiplady	90	-	-	Tho ^s Ratcliffe Senior			
7 Elizabeth Tiplady	90	-	-	as representative			
8 John Tiplady	90	-	-	of Elizabeth Rab			
9 Margaret Tiplady	90	-	-	Deceased	16	1	5
10 Jane Tiplady	90	-	-				
	£900	-	-		£899	19	11
Houses	500	-	-	My Account			
Gas Shares	90	-	-	Building Club	250	-	-
Shop Goods	600	-	-	Sisters	54	-	-
Loan Society	15	-	-	Share of Stock	160	-	-
				Balance	791	-	-
	£1205	-	-	Kenyon	50	-	-
					£1205	2-	-
				April 5 th 1856			

On the same Day Mr William Stones & myself viewed and measured the property for the purpose of Administration, and in the Evening I went to Over Darwen where we entered into a contract for 2000 Tons Cannell³ @ 17/6 per Ton - On return Theatre, I saw H Stowe in Luke the Labourer⁴

April 5th. 1856 - An important day of business Brother John came on the previous Evening and this Day received his £90. Sisters placed their Amount of £360 in Cunliffe &

² The total is £1350.

³ A type of coal that burns with a very bright flame that was used for the production of coal gas: *OED* 'cannel', n.2.

⁴ Local actor Henry Stowe acted in John Baldwin Buckstone's 2 act play, *Luke the Labourer*, at the Theatre Royal (*Blackburn Standard*, 9 April 1856).

Co. Tho^s Kenyon called with his £100 Promissory Note,⁵ which I owed his Brother Henry & this was transferred to himself being reduced to £50. I borrowed £10 of Brother John. Robt Ratcliffe received his Money day before. I very unwell all Day with a severe headache.

April 10th Went down to Whalley along with Mr R. Thompson - It was the Horse Show. We were much wet on our return.

The same day died James Pickup, Esq^{re} aged 74 Years a most worthy and upright Gentleman.

12th Died W Noblett Tobacconist - and on the 9th William Walsh (aged 53) a very old acquaintance and formerly Superintendent of Grimshaw Park School.

Truly we may remark Death's shafts fly thick

April 22nd Second Journey to Manchester on the League Building Society business. Met the Board and had a long Consultation with them. - They were very cordial & some business was done.

[April] Friday the 25th Went to Accrington with Mr Clough to the Oratorio of Judas⁶ - The singing was excellent Mr Hinchcliffe sang brilliantly & with great power I also liked Miss Senior, but she is not equal to Mrs Sunderland, Mr Cooper was not equal to the Tenor Songs in this Oratorio tho his efforts were very creditable indeed. The Instrumentalists were good and the Chorus well sustained.

May 24th Died at Burnley Tho^s Carus formerly of this Town. Schoolmaster & Parish Clerk - He was greatly addicted to liquor. Aged 52

May 29th Peace rejoicing - went to Preston.⁷

June 2nd I narrowly escaped a severe accident by the falling of a skip of Weft from a Teagle⁸ in Clayton Street which slipped from the Iron & fell to the Ground within a few yards from me & others.

[June] 3rd Went to Manchester on the League Building business some progress was made, especially in reference to the proposed Dissolution & Dividend.

[June] 4th Mr Sansom was buried from the Old Bull Inn aged 39. - He was supposed to be very unhappy in consequence of the incontinency of Mrs S.

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Memorabilia [sic]

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June 2nd Auditing the Corporation Accounts with Messrs. Coddington & Woods. - Books reflects great credit on Mr Hargreaves the assistant to the Treasurer. - Escaped

[June] 3rd Went third journey to Manchester on League Business

[June] 4th Returned from Manchester, early.

[June] 5th Darwen Gas Society's Meeting. -

[June] 6th Victoria Benefit Building Society Meeting Mr Sturdy withdrew his shares.

[June] 7th At the Shop -

[June] 8th Sunday Annual Sermons for the B N & S [Blackburn National & Sunday] Schools the Rev R Hart preached in the Morning, Parish Church.

In the Afternoon Rev A. Haworth at St Michael's.

June 14th Palmer, "the Great Murderer" hung.⁹

⁵ A signed document with a written promise to pay to a person or the bearer a specific sum on a certain date or on demand: *OED* 'promissory note', n.

⁶ Handel's oratorio *Judas Maccabæus*.

⁷ A meal for the inmates of the workhouse was the only formal commemoration of peace in the Crimean War. Factories continued to work but, after work, workpeople organised informal demonstrations to celebrate the peace and to protests against the Mayor and Corporation (*Blackburn Standard*, 4 June 1856).

⁸ A hoist used to move goods from floor to floor of a warehouse: *OED* 'teagle', n. 1.

⁹ William Palmer, the Rugeley Poisoner, (1824-1856) was hung for the murder of John Parsons Cook at Rugeley, Staffordshire. Palmer, who came from a wealthy family, qualified as a surgeon at St Bartholomew's

July 19th This Day Son Thomas left Preston and went to Ingham Bros Paper Merchants, Brown Street, Manchester.

[July] 20th Children again to School. - Essy to Miss Forshaw's, Harry & Fanny to Miss Waddington.

Resolutions this Day for 12 months - by the assistance of God.

1. To drink no more spirits - unless unwell or find my health impaired
2. Ale & other Liquors in extreme moderation
3. Discontinue Sunday travelling by Rail, unless to Divine worship
4. Attend two services on the Sunday.
5. Put by One Shilling per day for the children's School wage.
6. Not to "bet" the most trifling wagers.
7. To inculcate Truth & Integrity at Home.

July 23rd James Cross Esq died at Ripon - buried here (St Peter's) on the 26th.

[July] 24th Died Jno Proudlove - suddenly.

[July] 26th paid four Sisters £9 each part of Sister Mary's Estate.

Same Day Charles promoted at the Mill to 5/- per week during pleasure

Kept the above Seven Resolutions - one week.

[July] 25 Audit of the Widow & Orphan's was wrong in my account £1:3:0 made right.

The whole week very busy with List of Voters.

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July 31st The List finished yesterday. This afternoon went to Whalley - weather hot & fine

Aug 1 Glorious Weather - but fearfully hot. - Went to Whittle Springs with Mrs T. spent a happy day - but rather overheated. -

[August] 3rd Sunday at Whalley Church in the Afternoon

[August] 4th Dined with Steam Engine Makers at Stevenⁿ [Stevenson's]

[August] 5th Tuesday Ill of the Bowels - Weather very hot & cloudless.

Aug 6th Fanny's Birthday (10) a fine healthy strong girl. Meeting of E Loan Society - stormy & unsatisfactory

The Rev^d Peter Kay died of Carbuncle on the Spine - one of the finest Men in Blackburn - Aug 6th.

[August] 7th At the Over Darwen - also Chairman of the Festival of the Green Bank Lodge - Dinner at Stevenson's a full & pleasant meeting - Thunder & rain.

hospital, London. Around 1852 he gave up medicine to devote himself to horse-racing and gambling. He ran up debts from these activities. His wife died in suspicious circumstances after Palmer had taken out life insurance on her. He used the insurance money to pay off his debts. After his wife's death he raised £13,500 from moneylenders by forging his mother's signature. In November 1855 his victim, Cook, with whom Palmer had become financially involved, won heavily at Shrewsbury races. Soon after, Cook died with Palmer being accused of tampering with his food and drink. Suspicions arose about the circumstances of Cook's death and Palmer was arrested for his murder. A special act of Parliament was passed so that Palmer could be tried at the Central Criminal Court in London. Palmer's trial became a show trial and, although the evidence was flimsy, he was convicted of poisoning Cook with strychnine. Suspicions were raised about the deaths of his wife, four of his five children and two illegitimate children, as well as his mother-in-law. He was hanged publicly in Rugeley in June 1856. His trial inspired pictures and books including the structure of Wilkie Collins' novel *The Woman in White*. The drinker's question 'What's your poison?' came into use around the time of Palmer's trial (Richard Davenport-Hines, 'Palmer, William [called the Rugeley Poisoner] (1824-1856), *ODNB*).

[August] 8th Thunder & rain - the Rev P. Kay interred amid the lamentations of a large body of his hearers at St Alban's Chapel. Aged 53 years

[August] 9th A Wet Day = all through -

[August] 10th. Sunday - Parish Church - Mr Moss - home in the Afternoon - Evening visited Mr Kenworthy who has been in a dangerous illness for 18 months very feeble but cheerful.

[August] 11th Anniversary of Green Bank Lodge - chairman

[August] 17th Sunday at Great Harwood Church - Rev G. Fielding a good singing affair - but Miss Whitham was too frivolous in some things for Handel - Collection about £36 - had Dinner & Tea with Mr Catterall

[August] 18th Institution of New Building Society, got up mostly to put Chadwick into a job. - full Meeting - all went off unanimously - Appointed a Manager, chairman.¹⁰

[August] 21 Harwood Fair - wet - revising Bye Laws of the District.

[August] 23rd Mrs T. went to Balderstone with Essy - stopped Ten Days

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Sep^r 6th. Visit to Mrs Badger's Worsthorne with Mary.

[September] 10th Borrowed of T. Hart £25:0:0

repaid Jan 22nd @ Interest 8/6

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Sep^r. 26th 1856

Lawyers are so dreadful dilatory - that I set to this Day and wrote a copy of my Will - which will be found to be equitable I trust to all parties.

Sep^r 29th Paid Sarah Tiplady of Manchester £90 belonging to my Nieces - and on the 7th Oct^r £3 each to the Nieces of my Brother Lomax

[September] On the 27th Died young Henry Eccles, son of the late Member W. Eccles

Oct 13th The Great Eclipse of the Moon, commenced @ 23 Min past Nine, and ended in the Morning of the 14th It was well seen, the Night being exceedingly fine and clear - About the end of the Eclipse on the morning of the 14th October.

Died William Kenworthy Esq^{re} Brookhouse after a long lingering and painful illness of 18 months - He was a man of wonderful genius in Mechanics, and rose to the pinnacle of fortune by the exercise of his Talents.

[October] 13th Elected Secretary of the Tradesman's Society.

Nov 2nd Visited Blackpool in Company with my Wife, attended Church in the Morning and Wesleyan Chapel in the Evening - The Sermon in the Evening was preached by a talented Gent from these Words "Keep thy Soul with all Diligence" Left on the 4th for Home, and Mrs T. remaining for some days.

On the previous Day went to Over Darwen to the Dinner of the Darwen District, (Nov 1) a very orderly, pleasant and instructive Meeting

The Weather in November was inclined to the frosty and it ended with a clear dry frost but on the 2nd of December there was a heavy fall of Snow much heavier than has been seen for some years - so early in the Winter. -

George sick - Bramley & his Brother left - Son Charles sick - James put his wrist out - Dec^r 1 Edmund Banks assisted in the Binding

¹⁰ Tiplady chaired the meeting at which the Provident Building Society was formed. The meeting agreed that Tiplady would be part of the management committee and that Thomas B. Chadwick be appointed secretary (*Preston Chronicle*, 23 August 1856).

Money scarce & Credit scarce - Work good, health good - thank God for all his Mercies -

In all our difficulties & trials may we look to Him.

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1856 Dec^r 31 On a Sick Bed - ill of cold & pleurisy which gave way after several day illness -

[December] On the 28th Died Rev Gilmour Robinson of Tockholes very deeply lamented & respected by the whole Township

The Year has been fruitful in changes, & not unfruitful in deaths. It began with the sudden demise of Mr Perfect Esq^{re} followed by the equally sudden death of Mr Charles Boardman, then followed James Pickup Esq^{re} then W Kenworthy Esq^{re} & lastly at the close the above respected Gent Rev Gilmour Robinson - All these were members of the Xtian [Christian] Knowledge Society - and when I reflect how full of Life vigour & hope, Interred in the cold grave.

Their Memory & their sense is gone,

Alike unknowing & unknown.

I can only be overwhelmed with gratitude to be spared a little longer yet. While the Ink is scarcely dry - I must had [sic], Mr James Pemberton, aged 66 - very suddenly

In the Town great Meeting on the subject of an Infirmary in consequent of the generous offer of W Pilkington the Mayor who has given £2,000 to the object