

1857

Jan 23rd Friday - Meeting respecting the Income Tax at the Town Hall, the Mayor W. Pilkington Esqr in the chair, present also Ja^s Pilkington Esq, M.P., Mr J Feilden Esq^r M.P. - T Dugdale, R. Hopwood, W^m Hoole, T C. Ainsworth, E Briggs, - Jno Baynes, C Tiplady on the platform. Resolutions were carried approving of an immediate removal of the War addition (9^d.) Thanks were voted to the chair.¹

29th Mayor's Grand Ball - the Most splendid affair that has occurred in Blackburn - To be followed by a Grand Masonic Ball.

The Month of February commenced with cold frosty weather on Sunday, in the Afternoon there were slight indications of Snow, which came down on Monday, Candlemass Day in overwhelming force, and continued so about a foot deep on the level, and in drifted heap more than four feet deep - On Wednesday Night a further increase in the depth took place - On the 3rd Died very suddenly Mr France Feilding, Knuzden Brook and on the same day equally sudden Mr Thomas Haworth, Iron Merchant Ainsworth Street - highly & deservedly respected.

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Feb. 5. Grand Masonic Ball, at the Town Hall - when upwards of 400 attended. In fact all the elite of the Town, Though not much of a Ball Man, and no dancer I and my Wife & one Son attended. - The surplus to be devoted to the Infirmary.

The Thaw commenced on the 5th and continued two or three days until the Snow disappeared.

Feb. 5th The 41st Meeting of the Society took place in the parish Church - present Rev W Rushton, J. C Kershaw, R Dobson, T. Sharples, R H Hart, Rev R Moss. - J Hargreaves, R Parkinson, J Beardsworth, - J B S Sturdy

Feb. 19th. 1857 My Cousin Robert Ratcliffe died at Manchester - he was buried at St. Peter's Church, - 23rd Feb. - Uncle - Cousins John & Thomas - self & B^{rs} James & George Stones & Willie Boardman - Robt left an ill Daughter.²

[February] 24th Proposition = 432 JH & T.C. - Sansom's

3rd March Initiative TC & Mr. - Dined

March 1st The Weather Magnificent - Morning St Peters Afternoon Accrington - excellent discourse "Matthew the Publican"

[March] 3rd Monday - We made a Supper for the Work people to which attended. David and his Wife, George and his Wife, John Hargreaves, J. C. Robinson, My Sons William & Charles, - the Lads - E^o Woods and William Sharples, and a right good supper it was - They all enjoyed themselves.

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¹ Income tax had been raised from 9 old pence to 16 pence during the war with Russia that ended in 1856. Tiplady was one of the principal speakers at the meeting that passed motions supporting the reduction of income tax, if not the abolition, and requesting the method of assessment be revised making it fairer to the professional and trading classes. These motions were to be presented in a petition by one of Blackburn's MPs, James Pilkington, with the support of the other, Montague Feilden, and Lancashire's county MPs (*Blackburn Standard*, 28 January 1857).

² George Stones was the husband of Robert Ratcliffe's sister, Mary Anne; Willie Boardman was the son of another sister, Margaret, and her husband, Charles Boardman, both of whom were dead.

In Consequence of a Defeat of the Government on Mr Cobden's Motion, (16) Lord Palmerston resolved to dissolve the House, and this caused a General Election.³ Our Candidate were for Blackburn

1857	{ James Pilkington Esq ^{re}	}	No Poll
March 27	{ W ^m . H. Hornby Esq ^{re}	}	show of hands
	{ Jonathan Peel Esq ^{re}	}	Retired

Major Feilden was obliged to retire - a most active Canvass was got up for Mr Hornby and a requisition signed by a Majority of the Electors pledging their support. He was quickly at the head of the Candidates, and so little chance had Mr Peel of success, and so much afraid was Ja^s Pilkington of being defeated that Mr Peel was induced to retire. The Nomination & Election was on Friday March 27th 1857. There was no poll - Mr Hornby had a tremendous Majority at the Hustings being followed by nearly 600 voters - The Town was in a state of jubilee with joy - & all things passed off peaceably and well - I was on his Committee. - Never was there more complete defeat of the Radical Interest both here and at Manchester, Salford, Huddersfield, Rochdale, Preston, Bolton and Clithero Cobden, Miall, Gibson, Bright, Clay, Barnes, Armitage &c thrown out, Also Gladstone & Peel

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April 23rd. Mechanics Soiree - Having a severe cold I did not attend but my Wife & three Sons were there. I was very angry with them for stopping so very late - one five in the Morning -

James Hopwood, Market looker⁴ died - worried & fagged to death by too many Masters.

Old Rich^d Brown, the Steward of H^y Sudell died - aged 83 years - For a long period he held the Anniversary of H. S. at the Fox and Grapes.

May 7th Mr Tho^s Thwaites, the Liquor Merchant died this day in a railway Carriage coming from Bacup to Blackburn - Mr Robert Duckworth Inn keeper was present with him in the Carriage. "Truly in the midst of Life we are in Death".

Same Day at Darwen Gas Meeting - Mr Brandwood was not present - His two sons Tho^s & W^m were both interred in one Day.

May 12 & 13th Had a severe attack of the Cholera which lasted several hours, I was under the hand of Mr Pickop Surgeon and was much prostrated - Threw myself on the Club,⁵ but was heartily tired of one weeks confinement - on Sunday (17th) went to Chatburn & Worston with my Wife, and returned on the following day much benefitted by the out.

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Rev H^y Boardman died Monday May 23rd 1857 - aged 29 years -

John Whalley died June 2nd 1857.

June 1st A Glorious Whitmonday - the finest Weather that could possibly be desired. On the previous day was down at Ribchester in the Afternoon with my Wife - got Tea at Tho^s Dewhurst Ribchester Bridge

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³ The Prime Minister. Lord Palmerston, called an election after his government lost a motion on its policy in China by 16 votes on 3 March 1857 (*Blackburn Standard*, 11 March 1857). After news broke, in December 1856, of the British bombardment of the port of Canton on the orders of the Governor of Hong Kong, John Bowring, the China question became a major topic of public debate and dominated the 1857 election (Luke A. Heselwood, 'The Impact of Anglo-Chinese Relations on the Development of British Liberalism, 1842-1857', University of Manchester Ph.D. thesis (2016), pp. 184-7).

⁴ An official who inspected quality of goods at a market: *OED* 'market-looker', n. C2.

⁵ To receive money in time of sickness from an association into which members paid regular small sums to receive assistance: *OED* 'club', n. 14.b.

June 9th Journey to London

This Journey was undertaken in consequence of a Summons from the Blackⁿ. Railway to appear as witness before the House of Commons in respect to giving Evidence before a Committee for the purpose of assisting the Blackburn Line to obtain an Act of Parliament to extend their Line northwards to Settle, and Southwards by Radcliffe Bridge to Manchester - The Bill was lost.

I left home on Tuesday June 9th & went onto Manchester from thence to London by Express Train. - We arrived at Lⁿ. at half past Ten or $\frac{1}{4}$ to 11 o'clock, and witnessed the tremendous fire at Pickford's Warehouse at Cambden Town - near the Euston Square Station. I obtained lodgings at Mr Knights the Coffee House, No 26 Charing Cross where I remained 7 days.

On Wednesday attended Committee - not examined - Mr Flannagan in Box all day capital Evidence. Evening at Dr. Johnson's with Lyons.

[June] Thursday (11th) Attended Committee - Flannagan concluded Green begun - Evidence rather confused - closed at 4. Evening at Evans & Drury Lane. Miss Ellen

Friday Attended Committee - was examined, Mr Hornby underwent a long Examination this Day - good Evidence. After him Mr Lewis closed at four & adjourned until Monday.

[June] Saturday (13) Went to the Grand Rehearsal at the Crystal Palace about 11,000 present⁶ Day beautiful - singing delightful sight splendid - company agreeable - well worth the Money 10/6 - Chorus & Songs were give from Judas - Messiah and Israel in Egypt - Miss C Novello, Sim Reives, Her[r] Formes & Mr Weiss - principals - Costa - Leader 500 Instrumentalists and 2,000 vocalists from all parts of the Kingdom. Magnificent display of Musical Talent - crowned with complete success.

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Sunday Morning - Temple Church - Afternoon to Richmond being kindly treat by Mr Withers - Evening at a Saloon for a few minutes.

Monday I attended in the City - Making sundry purchases.

Tuesday Morning came down to Atherstone & saw my Sister-in-law - who was very well - slept there

[June] Wednesday the 17th down to Manchester - at the Exhibition⁷ - and then home.

Friday & Saturday at Home.

Sunday poorly in my side some time

Monday the 11th of Feb^y Died the Rev W^m Hartley late of Balderstone. - 1861

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June 18th. Edward Briggs Cotton Spinner hung himself in the Engine House of one of his own Mills - awful occurrence.

⁶ The full choral rehearsal before the Great Handel Festival held at the Crystal Palace, 15-20 June 1857 (*Morning Advertiser*, 13 June 1857).

⁷ The Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition was held in a specially constructed building at Old Trafford between 5 May and October 17, 1857. Over 16,000 works of art were displayed including Old Masters, contemporary paintings, portraits and watercolours with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert lending the most items. Over 1,300,000 people visited (Elizabeth A. Pergam, *The Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition of 1857: Entrepreneurs, Connoisseurs and the Public* (Farnham, 2017), pp. 1-2).

Important Event
Sale of the Property belonging the late James Lomax
Thursday June 18th 1857.

		£	s	d
Lot 1	House, Union Street, - Mr Jardine and small house behind	235	"	"
Lot 2	House, Union Street, Mr Jardine	275	"	"
Lot 3	House D ^o Miss Tiplady	145	"	"
Lot 4	House Ainsworth Street D ^o	155	"	"
Lot 5	Shops Astley Gate, W Strong	485	"	"
Lot 6	2 Houses Cock Croft T. Dugdale	96	"	"
Lot 7	2 Houses D ^o J. Feilden	124	"	"
Lot 8	6 Houses Snig Brook, J Cunningham	185	"	"
Lot 9	1 House, St Paul's Street	82	"	"
Lot 10	2 Houses at Bottom Gate, Beer House &c &c	150	"	"
		£	1,932	" "

Sold by Mr Salisbury at the Old Bull Inn.

June 23 Funeral of Mr Edmund Briggs - Cotton Spinner

My Birthday - (49) Tempus fugit.

James Ferguson hung himself, Joiner

Weather for the last 10 Days very hot - This Day was remarkably hot & sultry. I should say the finest Summer Weather for many years.

July 28th Joseph Callis set sail for New York. Left Wife, 5 children & Shop in Salford. This he did as I understood on account of violent quarreling with his Wife - Poor Joe - This is the end of the rascally purchase in Salford.

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Aug 2nd At Burney with Mrs T. - attended Wesleyan Chapel in the Morning - Rev^d Levi Waterhouse Good Sermon - Devotional Congregation - handsome & spacious Chapel - & orderly schools - very much pleased Mrs Eltoft and Daughter outstripped all previous kindness - went with them in the Afternoon to Townley

[August] 4th Young Dr R T. Martland died suddenly - It is feared that the immoderate use of Spirits has caused his death.

Received from the Legacy Office - the usual papers - for Administering to Sister Mary's effects.

[August] 6th Fanny Birthday - 11 Years - New Sign put up and it began to rain as soon as up - and rained all that day & the following - at 2 o'clock on the 7th Day.

Tremendous Flood - Water up into the Property in Church St & Golden Lion Street -

[August] 14th George Dewhurst, Reed Maker, Queen Street died aged 67 years.⁸ A Man notorious in his day for Reform principles - a Councillor for St Paul's Ward. -

Buried in the Cemetery Aug 19th 1857 very fine

[August] 16 At Clitheroe, Mitton & Whalley with Wife.

[August] 19th. Died Mr Robert Riding of the Golden Lion - He was a noted sportsman and was usually named Cock Robin. No doubt excess & irregularities hastened his End. -

⁸ George Dewhurst (1792-1857) had been imprisoned for 2 years in 1820 for his part in a radical public meeting at Habergham Eaves in November 1819 in the aftermath of the attack on radical demonstrators in Manchester in August 1819. Throughout his life he continued to campaign for reform and social progress and had been a councillor in Blackburn since its incorporation in 1851 (*Chester Courant, and Anglo-Welsh Gazette*, 11 April 1820; *Preston Chronicle*, 29 August 1857)

Buried at the Parish Church (24th)

[August] 21^s & 22^d Great Domestic disturbances between Brother John, Sisters & Myself - on the occasion of his intention to marry a Strumpet or little better. He very headstrong & self-willed, but ultimately he was persuaded to give it up. Wrote twice to Mr Walker of Bury - John bought a Mangle & Furniture for her.

[August] 25th Mary went to Blackpool and I followed on the 28th. Had the Bowel Complaint all the time, and left on the 1st Sept no better - put myself under medical Treatment up to the 10th of Sept rather better.

[August] 29th Died little "Willie" & on the 6th Sep^r little Richard the son of my Brother in law Joseph Callis - now at Chicago N America

[August] 31st. Died James Parkinson, Stone Mason and Measurer, Queen Street, aged 52 years.

At Home all Week - poorly weak & unfit for Work -
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Sunday Sep 13th At the Methodist Chapel with Wife heard the Rev John Hickling - an old preacher in his 92nd year preached from 12 Rev. [Revelations] v. 1 "And there appeared great Wonder in heaven, a Woman cloth with the sun, and the Moon under her feet and upon her head a Crown of 12 stars" Forcible, clear, affectionate & earnest - and for a Man of his Age wonderful in the pulpit. He was a tall Man, and look particularly healthy - He must have been a strong Man in his day. He was also to preach in the Evening.

Recovered from my sickness - praise to God. -

My Wife & self to J Eatough in the Afternoon in a quiet friendly walk. Day after to Clithero & Chatburn.

Sep 20th To Hoghton with Wife - W^m & Richard walk towards Moon's Mills⁹ - beautiful day - very pleasant & refreshed - Much better.

Sep 24th. Aunt Callis (50) Age comes on apace - youth is fled - An excellent Woman.

Son Thomas leaves Manchester & goes to Turner & Co. this day (Liverpool) I pray for his success.

Sep 26. Letter from Thomas living at Birkenhead.

[September] 28th District Meeting £911:14:6 paid into the Bank for the Hotel, - Ours paid under protest.

The opinion of Mr John Field Pratt is that no part of our Funds can be used for the purchase of this Building.¹⁰

[September] 30th The Great Bazaar for the support of the Infirmary was this day opened - a large concourse of Strangers, particularly Ladies, - attended - The receipts would be large.

Poor Thomas Briggs of the Crown Hotel fell down in a fit and expired - He had lately built a fine Hotel & Shops near the Market Place.

It must here be noted that the Summer of 1857 from May to Sep^r inclusive was one of the finest, richest & most fruitful that ever was remembered. There was more Sunny weather - richer growing season - and in short the entire Harvest from E to W & S to North was fully completed, housed & secured by the 30th of September

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⁹ Moon's Mill was a village on the south bank of the River Darwen about 3 miles south east of Preston.

¹⁰ The local branches of the Oddfellows raised money by levying members to buy the Hotel in King Street, Blackburn, but, when members who disagreed wrote to J. Tidd Pratt (see f/n 137), he advised that it was an incorrect use of funds (*Blackburn Standard*, 30 September & 7 October 1857).

[October] Sunday Afternoon the 4th Visited Thomas Dewhurst of Ribchester with Mrs. T. grand & pleasant walk.

[October] 5th Tradesman's Quarterly Meeting peaceable & harmonious. Thence down to the Board of Management, strong discussion on the position of the Treasurer, he having too much money in hand. Resolutions carried to amend the state of things.

[October] 6th Women's Quarterly Meeting - Son Charles with me took £15:16:11.

Thence to the Masonic Meeting - No particular business.

[October] 7th Wednesday - General Fast & Humiliation on account of Insurrections, Murders and Massacres in our East India possessions.¹¹ At the parish Church twice Morning Sermon by Dr Rushton, Vicar from Joel - Evening Sermon by the Curate, R H Hart, from Jeremiah. A good collection was made on behalf of the Sufferers. The Day was apparently very well observed in this Town. Collection £35-10-0 Parish

[October] 5th Died Thomas Hilton, painter & Gilder - Drink!

Mem: Prayers sold about - 1750 - from Eyres & Spottiswoode.¹²

[October] Got Cold Sunday 11th Very hoarse, damp Weather. Sermons at Trinity Rev G Feilding preached - very well - poor Collection - hard times - many calls - Buyers swallowed up all -

[October] 12th To Manchester with Wife and Richard to the Exhibition- heavy train, fine day - met with Mr Hutchinson of Darwen in the same Carriage - He gave some very interesting details on the Geological Nature of the District - Bull Hill - Sough - the Tunnel Entwistle &c &c Very wise & sage remarks - good Memory good expression & personal experience of the District. Seemed to know every field, plot, farm, coal pit, stone Delph - Slate Quarry & plantations in the District.

Very throng at the Exhibition - 27,761 - Lost a Glass with Mr H. I said there were 30,000 - Home by Ten pm 37 Carriages - slow Coach - great difficulty to make the incline from Bolton to Entwistle - Then we dashed away like fury thro the Tunnel - No Accidents -

Very much gratified with the Exⁿ. but tired, jaded and knocked up with pushing, staring & squeezing.

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Nov^r 2nd This Day I contested St Mary's Ward for a Councillor - & was beaten by 72 votes. There was tremendous personation¹³ - & other rascally proceedings

The Poll stood thus:

A. Roylance	273
J. Arkwright	264
C. Tiplady	201
R. Parkinson	183

¹¹ Called by Queen Victoria on 24 September 1857, on behalf of the government, in response to the Indian Rebellion, once known as the Indian Mutiny, that began in 1857 (*London Gazette*, 25 September 1857).

¹² Eyre and Spottiswoode were the Queen's Printers after Charles Eyre had been granted a patent as King's Printer in 1767 ('Eyre and Spottiswoode', *Grace's Guide to British Industrial History*, https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Eyre_and_Spottiswoode [accessed 30 December 2020]).

¹³ Voting by passing off as someone else: *OED* 'personation' n. 2.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

This year, for the first time these four years, there have been contests in every ward; and in some very sharp ones.

ST. MARY'S WARD.—Number of burgesses on the list, 539. The poll booth was in a shop in New Market-street. Alderman Raiton presided. The assessors were Mr. Robert Peel and Mr. Richard Constantine. The candidates were Mr. Oliver Roylance, draper, and Mr. James Arkwright, grocer, the old members; Mr. Charles Tiplady, printer, and Rowland Parkinson, innkeeper. From the first opening of the poll, the old members shot ahead, and maintained it to the last. At four o'clock the numbers were—

Roylance	273
Arkwright	264
Tiplady	201
Parkinson	183

There was considerable personation; and the price ranged from 6d. to 1s.

ST. JOHN'S WARD.—Number of burgesses, 715. The poll both was at the Rechabites' Hall, Cable-street. Alderman Boyle presided. Assessors, Messrs. John Dean and James Byers. The candidates were Mr. Robert Watson and Joseph Turnbull, the retiring members, who were opposed by Mr. Thomas Boardman and Mr. Christopher Tattersall. From the opening of the poll it was evident that the retiring councillors would not be winning horses. They lacked a sufficient staff and the sinews of war, while their opponents possessed all the elements to secure a victory. Yet the poll was kept open till four o'clock, when the numbers were as follow:—

Boardman	432
Tattersall	431
Watson	111
Turnbull	111

Personation and every electioneering "dodge" were here adopted.

TRINITY WARD.—The votes were taken in Mount-street school-room, before Alderman Rutherford, and Thomas Walmsley and Thomas Firth, assessors. The candidates were Messrs. Birtwistle and Beaty, the retiring councillors, and Mr. Thomas Hacking, innkeeper. From the first hour it was evident that the innkeeper would not win. At the close of the poll the numbers were:—

Birtwistle	342
Beaty	330
Hacking	168

PARK WARD.—Number of burgesses, 816.—The votes were received at the Bolton Railway Station, before Alderman Hopwood, John Ingham and George Briggs, assessors. The candidates were Mr. R. Wilding, the retiring councillor, Mr. Thomas Bolton, Mr. Daniel Mills, and on Saturday, Mr. A. M. Paterson, manufacturer, issued an address, and prepared for the fight. On Monday morning, Mr. Mills retired. At the opening of the poll, Mr. Bolton took the lead, followed by Mr. Wilding. Towards noon, Mr. Paterson rallied, and it was soon evident that the struggle would be between Mr. Wilding and Mr. Paterson for the second seat. From three o'clock until four, the scene was most exciting, and several battles took place, but no one was materially hurt. At the close at four o'clock, Mr. Paterson was beaten by only three votes. The excitement was intense, that gentleman having five voters in the room ready to poll when the poll was closed. It is reported that the return will be disputed by a "quo warranto." The numbers announced were:—

Bolton	386
Wilding	333
Paterson	330

and most barefaced personation was adopted, and the "free and independent" burgesses, towards the close of the poll, could almost command any price, which was paid in the booth without any regard to secrecy. The general price of votes, it is said, ranged from 1s. to 3s. 6d. It is said that the friends of each candidate were equally guilty.

ST. PETER'S WARD.—Number of burgesses, 606. The poll booth was in Chapel-street School, Alderman Cunningham presiding; Mr. C. Bennington and James Atkin assessors. The only candidates announced were Mr. W. Dickinson, iron founder (the retiring councillor), and Mr. W. H. Cartwright. It was thought that this ward would have been a "walk-over" on the opening of the poll, two votes having been tendered, and the officials then kept waiting the accustomed hour. To their surprise, however, a fresh staff was introduced into the booth, and presently another candidate made his appearance in the person of Mr. John Umpleby, late one of the councillors for Park Ward. Parties then proceeded to poll votes for Dickinson and Umpleby. This attempt to take the ward by a *coup de main* caused some little bustle, and a staff was detached from other wards to resist the invaders. The poll proceeded until a little after two o'clock, when Mr. Umpleby's forces were withdrawn, and shortly after three the voting was closed, when the numbers were—

Dickinson	142
Cartwright	131
Umpleby	45

Even in this contest personation was practiced. The demand for votes being limited, not much bribery was effected, and prices were as low as from 3d. to 6d. per vote.

ST. PAUL'S WARD.—Number of burgesses, 836. The votes for this extensive ward were taken in the Western School-room, Bent-street, before Alderman Jackson; Thos. Thompson and William Pickles assessors. The candidates were Mr. Joseph Parker (one of the retiring councillors), Adam Bullough, and William Pilkington. Mr. Bullough appeared to be the favourite, the other gentlemen clinging to him for splits. Mr. Bullough shot ahead, followed by the old member, Mr. Pilkington in the rear. At two o'clock, however, the "knight of the hammer" retired from the contest of this Gibraltar of the reformers. At the close of the poll the numbers were—

Bullough	489
Parker	400
Pilkington	161

Personation was used also in this ward to some extent; votes were sold from 1s. to 1s. 6d.—the price fell at noon to 6d.

From the whole of the wards 24 persons are given into the custody of the police for personating voters, and were taken to the police office, but at the close of the proceedings the whole were discharged with—a caution!!

DARWEN

SECRECY OF MASONRY.—Freemasonry, I admit, has its secrets. It has secrets peculiar to itself; but of what do these principally consist? They consist of signs and tokens, which serve as testimonials of character and qualification, which are only conferred after a due course of instruction and examination. These are of no small value; they speak a universal language, and act as a passport to the attention and support of the initiated in all parts of the world. They cannot be lost so long as memory retains its power. Let the possessor of them be expropriated, shipwrecked, or imprisoned, let him be stripped of everything he has got in the world, still these credentials remain, and are available for use as circumstances require. The good effects which they have produced are established by the most incontestable facts of history. They have stayed the uplifted hand of the destroyer; they have softened the asperities of the tyrant; they have mitigated the horrors of captivity; they have subdued the rancour of malevolence; and broken down the barrier of political animosity and sectarian alienation. On the field of battle, in the solitudes of the uncultivated forest, or in the busy haunts of the crowded city, they have made men of the most hostile feelings, the most distant regions, and the most diversified conditions, rush to the aid of each other, and feel special joy and satisfaction that they have been able to afford relief to a brother mason.—Benjamin Franklin.

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[1857]

Nov^r. 8th Sunday. Afternoon with Mrs. T to Whalley walked all the way - Night to Trinity after return, Dr Robinson preached an admirable Sermon on Home Education

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[1857]

Nov^r 11th Borrowed of Thomas Hart £20:0:0 to be repaid with interest £5 per cent, Feb^r 13th 1858.

[November] 15th To Pleasington at Geo: Stones' to Teas, thence home with Wife -

[November] 17th At Manchester, with the District Officers, J Brooks and C Roylance, on an appeal Case against a Levy of 10/- per Member, Upset by Preston objecting that the lodges were not summoned.

[November] 18th Mrs T. lost her purse, source of vexation and privation, - not much lost.

[November] 19th. Mrs Stott broke her leg, badly - in putting out the Clothes Lines.

[November] 23rd John Balshaw, the Town Cryer, called and informed me that Alex^r Emmett, the Secretary of the Burial Society had absconded and taken with him a portion of the Funds - Immediate steps were taken by the Board to prevent unnecessary confusion - A Board Meeting was held and adopted resolutions appointing E Whittle & W. Eaves joint Secretaries until the Annual Meeting - Legal advice was also taken as to what steps should be taken to apprehend him & bring him to justice. - His defalcations¹⁴ amount to about £100

[November] 27. The same unpleasant Business at the Board when Mr Whittle charged the whole Board with neglect. - Very stormy & cross language followed.

[November] 25 The Frost began, and is now very severe but ended on the 30th of Nov.

Dec^r 1. This Day is remarkable for Two things 1st John Salisbury's Account was settled after a tedious delay of some years - for which I am thankful being very nearly destitute - 2nd My Wife found her Keys, which had been lost a Week.

Business flat but we must wait patiently for better times -

23 Nov. My Son Richard went to Mr Wilson, the surveyor first time this Morning -

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[1857]

Dec 28th Monday Sale at Clitheroe, Type, went purchased a fount¹⁵ or two. Evening Grand Banquet of 432, very rich & expensive affair - Too much so for the times. B^r H presided, - ended 11 p.m.

[December] 29th. Willie not well - John not recovered - very busy

[December] 30th (Wednesday) Daniel Hawthorne Manager of the Over Darwen Gas Work interred at Trinity Church I & R Thompson attended. W. Evans elected Secretary of the Burial Society.

[December] 31st Grand Ball of the Oddfellows at the Hall in King Street. My son attended (Charles) I went to Over Darwen. We appointed Mr Ja^s Hawthorn Manager pro-tem until March 1858. - Brought in New Year home.

¹⁴ Amount misappropriated by fraud by a person responsible for management of funds: *OED* 'defalcation', n. 5.

¹⁵ In letterpress printing, a set of type of a particular size, weight, and style: *OED* 'fount', n.2.