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1865 - Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>

Through the Mercy of Almighty God - I am still in being, having passed thro one of the severest ordeals that a human being could suffer. - For the last 8 weeks, my strength has gradually returned - but yet I am only thin of flesh & weak of Limb - But I must wait in patience & leave all to Him, - in whom we live and move & have our being -

Weather 31Dec<sup>r</sup> morning damp - Jan 1 Fine Day hard frost - 2<sup>nd</sup> excessively cold with much snow.

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> At St Michael's afternoon Mr Pengelly - He every one that [?] good sermon

Jan Mr Walter Watson accidentally drowned in the reservoir at Stone Bridge Mill - Aged 35 great sensation caused thereby -<sup>1</sup>

Wrote Annual reports for Widow & Orphans D<sup>o</sup> New Assurance Society

[Janaury] 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Very heavy fall of snow, none larger since 1861 - Back Garden & Yard very full.

The Thaw was very partial, so about the 4<sup>th</sup> [February] a very hard frost set in, with wind E & N E and generally a clear but exceedingly cold atmosphere, which I was little able to bear.

Feb 7<sup>th</sup> Richard's 22<sup>nd</sup> Birthday - We had letters on the 8<sup>th</sup> from Brazils (all well) including £50 for certain Articles wh: he bought when over

This Day Died in his chair very suddenly Mr Councillor Edward Holroyde aged 56 years, a Man highly respected by his colleagues in the council and by all the Public.

[February] 8<sup>th</sup> Died Miss Carr, very aged, (say 86 years) one of the old Links of a bygone Generation.

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> Friday - Sad accounts from Scotland of the great severity of the Winter - large falls of snow, & storms. This day it snows very much in B<sup>n</sup> and we have not had so much snow for many years. The frost is sharp

[February] 16<sup>th</sup> Died Miss Longworth - also Cardinal Wiseman aged 63 years. -

My health feeble - received from Tradesman's £9.7.2 for salary & work. -

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[February] 17<sup>th</sup> to 20. Exceedingly severe frost with large falls of Snow. I fast at home, very feeble, but upon the whole holding on for warmer weather. -

[February] 19 Anniversary of P Aid Society - Hail, sleet snow, rain, wind & Thunder, a very rough day - more moderate p.m.

Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> The old Tradesmans Society broken up, and the money divided, the amount each Member was £31.3.6 less 1/5 for a widow, All this time I had been very ill, The President, Stewards & Trustee, made an intermingling of accounts which was very unpleasant & caused many reflections to be passed upon the Secretary - The Books of the Society were ordered to be burnt in the presence of Mr John Robinson Trustee & Mr Brogden who was called to assist at the division of the funds. - Mr Adam Balshaw was the President at the time of the Winding up of the Club. - I have enclosed the accounts sent out to each Members, I got my Money on the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. - A more uncomfortable transaction has not happened for a long time

[February] 27<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Ward Election, Mr Stafford elected in the room of Mr E Holroyd

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<sup>1</sup> Watson was part of Messrs. Watson, Brothers of Stone Bridge and Rhyddings Mills, Oswaldtwistle. He drowned on 17 January after falling off a wooden bridge over a stream feeding a lodge (*Blackburn Times*, 25 January 1865).

The Grand New Organ of St Peter's Church open by Mr Best of Liverpool, splendid performance, very successful Event.

[February] 25<sup>th</sup> Died & Buried this day, Mr Heywood a great supporter of Mr Hornby  
Wednesday March 1.

March 5 (Sunday) St Michaels in the Afternoon. Good Sermon by the Curate.

[March] 8<sup>th</sup> Letter from Richard - (all well) thank God -

[March] 9<sup>th</sup> The Annual Meeting of the O. D. Gas Company. - All the Directors present, Dined at Mrs Smalley's - £7.0.0 per cent dividend Declared - Tired at night as the Weather was cold. -

[March] 10<sup>th</sup> Fall of Snow - very cold weather -

A few days since Miss Mary Pilkington, youngish daughter of the Member, married Major (?) Flynn an Irish Man, much to the annoyance of her parents and friends<sup>2</sup> -

The month of March exceedingly cold & stormy especially from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>  
[March] Lady Day when there fell a large quantity of Snow.

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[March] 25<sup>th</sup> Confirmation at the Parish Ch: by the Bishop of Manchester - Essy & Henry my youngest Son & Daughter were confirmed - very wet & stormy.

Health Moderate - Thank Al<sup>y</sup> God for his great mercy. -

A dreadful March until the 28<sup>th</sup> or thereabouts thence calm and mild -

Died at London April 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Cobden Esq. the great advocate of the Repeal of the Corn Laws.<sup>3</sup> universally respected -

[April] 4<sup>th</sup> - John Barlow - formerly an Overlooker at Brookhouse but lately partner with H<sup>y</sup> Shuttleworth & Co. hanged himself - it is said by reason of reverses in business.

[April] 1<sup>st</sup> Mrs Critchley died - an excellent person - the wife of Mr Critchley the Druggist -

Health problem - Bowels disordered.

April 11<sup>th</sup> Down to Whalley with Mrs Tiplady a very pleasant day and warm - did me much good

[April] 14<sup>th</sup> Good Friday - 12 Months this day since I had the operation performed - since which time my sufferings have been very severe - I attended Church & Sacrament this day -

[April] 16<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday - a Magnificent day -

The fair well attended - Thunder Storm in the Evening - & great change in the Atmosphere.

Easter Tuesday - the usual Tea party at St Johns F Friendly Society - I took cold with the East Winds -

Wed - 19[April] . Thomas Lund, Sec of a Co-op committed for forgery & Embezzlement<sup>4</sup> - His furniture [?] & establishment broken up.

[April] 26<sup>th</sup> Special Council Meeting - Present - Mr Charles G. H Beck, solicitor of Worcester was elected Town Clerk in the room of Mr Seward discharged - 22 to 12.

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<sup>2</sup> Mary Elizabeth Pilkington married Captain Walter Henry Stewart Flynn at St Margaret, Westminster, on 26 February 1865.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Cobden (1804 -1865) joined the Anti-Corn Law League shortly after it was founded in Manchester in October 1838. He became its joint leader, with John Bright, in 1841 and was elected to parliament in the same year. Following the Anti-Corn Law League's campaign, the Corn Laws were abolished in 1846. Cobden remained active politically in the Radical then Liberal parties and was an MP until his death, apart from 1857 to 1859 (Miles Taylor, 'Cobden, Richard (1804-1865)', *ODNB*).

<sup>4</sup> Lund was secretary of the Blackburn Co-operative Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company (*Blackburn Standard*, 10 May 1865).

[April] (14<sup>th</sup>) President Lincoln assassinated [sic] in the Theater at New York - General Lee surrendered to Grant.

My health rather better in April

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[April] 25<sup>th</sup> Attended the funeral of the late Joseph Pearson at Balderstone - There was a procession of Masons at his funeral. - About Ten went forward.

May 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. This day I went to Manchester & thence to Denton to the An<sup>l</sup> Prov Grand Lodge of Masons, and travelled in the whole by Rail & Bus, about 70 Miles - Was much fatigued but all right on the (5<sup>th</sup>) - The only person from person from [sic] B<sup>n</sup> was Mr Richard Eaves, whose death will be found entered in its proper place a very excellent Christian & a consistent Free Mason.

May 20<sup>th</sup>, (Sat<sup>y</sup>) 1865 - Funeral of Le G. N. Starkie Esq. R W. Prov G. Master of West Lancashire, at Padiham.

This day I was present at one of the magnificent though mournful spectacles wh I ever witnessed viz the funeral of Mr Starkie - The Freemasons attended in large numbers with nearly the whole staff of the Prov Grand Lodge - The day was exceedingly fine & beautiful - The funeral cortege consisted of 250 Masons from Liverpool, Preston, Blackburn, Burnley, Clitheroe, Accrington, Harwood & other Towns. - The Company consisted of the principal Gentry & Magistracy of the county - including L Gen Scarlet, Lord Abinger, Townley Parker, C. Townley, Joseph Feilden & many others - the Tenants mustered about 200 strong, and then nearly forty Gent Carriages in the Procession. - The Guests were invited to the Hall at 11 am, and a large Tent was erected for the special accommodation of the Masons. Breakfast of a sumptuous character was provided for all who attended. After wh. Captain le Gendre N Starkie paid his respects to the Company. - The Cortege left the Hall at 12.45 and proceeded to the Ancient parish Church of Padiham where the Burial Service was read in a very feeling & effective manner, - The Choir sang "Vital Spark of heavenly flame" in a most delightful & solemn Manner, - Thence the Procession moved on to the Cemetery & about 2.30 his remains were consigned to the Tomb. The Masonic Oration followed & two Anthems were sung & the Doxology. The whole affairs was inexpressively grand & solemn & the whole population of the Town seemed to have poured out onto the Streets to view the Procession.

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June 4<sup>th</sup> 1865

Whitsuntide was ushered in with the usual festivities The weather was exceedingly fine & genial - There were very cheap Trips to York and other places. Mrs T & children went to York - W. to Whitewell - C to Hodder Bridge - Myself to Sawley - Mr & Mrs H to Blackpool & all arrived safely home.

Thursday June 8. To Lytham & Blackpool -

Reported in the paper three Dreadful Railway Accidents resulting in the death of nearly 30 persons & 50 Wounded more or less<sup>5</sup> -

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday 12 a.m. or noon Departed this Life my old Neighbour & Friend, William Hart, Esq. Spring Hill, aged 67 years - For a long period we were united at St John's School as Superintendents and also in the Management of the Female Friendly Society. He was exceedingly kind to me in my late sickness visiting me very frequently & always bringing some little present, I sincerely hope he is now at rest -

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<sup>5</sup> 7 June at Shrewsbury station; 9 June near Staplehurst in Kent; 13 June near Keynsham, Somerset (*Blackburn Standard*, 14 June 1865).

16<sup>th</sup> W. Hart interred at the Cemetery. Attended the funeral - about Ten present besides the family, as E Baynes, C Parkinson &c

18<sup>th</sup> At St Johns, where the Rev J Smith Incumbent delivered an affecting Sermon wherein he paid a tribute of respect to Mr Hart, and to the Teachers of the Thunder Alley School.

23<sup>rd</sup> (Aged 57) Praised be God for all his Mercies. Treated the children, say, F & E & C & Henry with Mrs T, to a Drive Ribchester, Langho, Whalley Lamb Row where we had Tea, - Rain fell about 5 o'clock - very acceptable to the Farmers.

A Most Glorious & Magnificent June -  
Electioneering beginning - Sound of a Contest -

11<sup>th</sup> Mr George Stones died aged 56 years  
The Election

Four Candidates -

1.	W <sup>m</sup> H <sup>y</sup> Hornby, Esq.	1,053
2.	Joseph Feilden, Esq.	938
3 -	James Pilkington, Esq	774
4.	John Gerald Potter, Esq	5 <sup>6</sup>
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Now there is one thing to note about this Election. There appeared to be a perfect understanding that there should be no contest - but one Ernest King the printer of the B<sup>n</sup>. Times thought otherwise & so Mr Potter was brought forward to put in 2 Liberals - but the opinion of all moderate Men was against him.<sup>7</sup> The upshot was that Mr Feilden of Witton at the eleventh hour was carried one of the Members for Blackburn, and James Pilkington Liberal who had served the town 17 years was thus thrown out by the folly and obstinacy of the extreme Radicals.

Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> Reopening of Great Harwood Chu. attended Afternoon and Evening - Sermon in the Afternoon - "One Thing is Needful" plain, practical Discourse, and earnestly delivered by the Revd J Baker - Evening - Sermon by Revd G Beardall, very eloquent and impressive discourse - Text Malichie [sic] The Coming of the Lord to his Temple - I walked there wonderful strength, the Lord be praised - A Quire of Singers from St Peter's & St John Attended & sang some most beautiful Music - The Collection amounted to more than £64.0.0.

	<b>HORNBY.</b>	<b>FEILDEN.</b>	<b>PILKINGTON.</b>	<b>POTTER.</b>
Hornby (Plumpers) .....	13	...	...	...
Hornby and Feilden .....	875	875	...	...
Hornby and Pilkington.....	130	...	130	...
Hornby and Potter .....	35	...	...	35
Feilden (Plumpers).....	...	6	...	...
Feilden and Pilkington.....	...	42	42	...
Feilden and Potter.....	...	15	...	15
Pilkington (Plumpers) .....	...	...	91	...
Pilkington and Potter .....	...	...	508	508
Potter (Plumpers) .....	...	...	...	18
	<b>1053</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>576</b>
No. of Persons who Voted .....				<b>1738</b>
No. of Persons who did not Vote .....				<b>112</b>
				<b>1,845</b>

<sup>6</sup> Polling day was 12 July with Potter receiving 577 votes (*Blackburn Times*, 15 July 1865).

<sup>7</sup> No evidence exists of the editor of the *Blackburn Times* exerting influence over Potter to stand. After Potter announced his candidature on 12 May 1865, the *Blackburn Times* did give him support in an editorial (*Blackburn Times*, 13 May 1865).

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Visit to Lytham, Aug 26 Sat<sup>y</sup> Left B<sup>n</sup> for Lytham with Mrs Tiplady, and stayed with Mrs Harwood - Sunday dined at the Ship - 28<sup>th</sup> to Blackpool & had a sail - also a Bath - 29<sup>th</sup> In Lytham, 30 to Fleetwood & Furness Abbey - very fine day & delightful out & home at Night - Stayed in Lytham until the 9<sup>th</sup> September & then home in safety - Attended a Lodge on the 6<sup>th</sup>

This Sept the weather has been magnificent & fine also extremely hot. - this the 17<sup>th</sup> Day as hot as any

On the 13<sup>th</sup> [September] Died Mr Ellis Heath one of the Brethren of our Lodge - aged 48 years Interred with Masonic Honours. Also George Baron, Innkeeper, Both interred same day.

[September] 22<sup>nd</sup> Died Mr J D. Bolton a PM of 269.

[September] 25<sup>th</sup> Presentation of beautiful Silver Cup to John Dean, Esq Councillor for St Marys Ward.

[September] 27<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, The weather continues remarkably clear and fine. At Mid-day very hot indeed. On Monday there was a cloud of Midges or small Flies - in immense quantities - Rain has fallen and only twice this Month in B<sup>n</sup>. - The Mills are closed for want of water - and the reservoirs are nearly dry. In short it is the hottest finest and driest September ever remembered, and the traffic on the Canal partly stopped

This Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of Sept concludes one of the driest seasons ever remembered. - The Water Works Co are nearly dried up - and the people have to get Water from pumps, old Wells & springs wherever they can get it. It has been also excessively hot.<sup>8</sup> -

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> At O. Darwen to Eccleshill to settle upon route to Hoddlesden with new pipes, (Gas) thence to the Commercial Inn. At Dinner was nearly choked by a piece of Rabbit.

[October] 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday After an unprecedented Season of Drought there are this Morning indications of change - Water is much wanted.

[October] 3<sup>rd</sup> Witnessed the Installation of Sir Tho<sup>s</sup> G. Hesketh at Preston - not as imposing as at Leeds - thence to the Exhibition where I was very much gratified.

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Oct 18<sup>th</sup> St Lukes Day - Died Lord Palmerston the prime minister aged 80 years - had he lived to until the 20<sup>th</sup> he would have been 81.

Died about this date W<sup>m</sup> Sames Esq PM

The glories of our earthly state  
Are shadows, not substantial things,  
There is no armour against Fate  
Death lays his icy hand on Kings  
Sceptre & crown  
Must tumble down  
And in the earth be equal laid  
With the poor crooked scythe and spade.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> At the council meeting on 5 October, in response to Tiplady's question, the Mayor read a list of the location of pumps and springs (*Blackburn Standard*, 11 October 1865).

<sup>9</sup> From James Shirley's play *The Contention of Ajax and Ulysses for the Armour of Achilles* (1659) Act 1, Scene 3 which has become known as the poem 'Death the Leveller' (*Oxford Book of English Verse 1250-1918* New Edition, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (ed.) (Oxford, 1939), p.304).

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> [October] The Annual Sermons of Holy Trinity Church. Two eloquent Sermons by the Rev Mr Quirk of Over Kellett. In the Morning from the psalms, in the Evening from Genesis - Ishmael. The preacher is a very talented Man, full of great power & language, his views sound his doctrine scriptural - his delivery very impressive. He is also an excellent Reader, in fact, quite a treat to hear him.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> [October] The Mayor, William Stones Esq - laid the Foundation Stone of the public Baths near St Peter's Church. The Day was fine, and there was a large Procession of the Corporation, Gentry, Magistrates, Oddfellows, Joiners, Masons, Shepherds, Licensed Victuallers & others. In the Evening 200 Gentlemen took Luncheon with the Mayor, when a very pleasant time was spent

Thursday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> At Accrington Prov Grand Lodge on the Charity Committee, very pleasant Meeting, got James Pilkington £5 - The PGM recognised me after my illness - dined with the Lodge & home at 9.30 - very large & pleasant Meeting, splendid Sermon - at Ch Church -

[November] 9<sup>th</sup> James Thompson Esq elected Mayor - Aldermen James Cunningham (36) - John Dean (31) Charles Tiplady (27) - T. A. Pickup (21) - John Smith (20) Thomas Lewis - 16 Votes -

He gave me £5 for the Widow & Orphan's Society - i.e. the Mayor, J Thompson Esq.

Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Died, young Tho<sup>s</sup> Brooks aged 19, very much respected also Mrs Brennand, aged 60 - late the Widow of Mr Greenwood the Swan

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with T. Riley, Schoolmaster

Dec 1. My Son Charles in a scrape - arrested and put in the Ward all Night on a charge of assault.

He avers was assaulted & acted only in self defence - they were set upon by a lot of Quarrymen one of whom Charley severely injured. Thomas looked after the case which heard privately by the Magistrates was dismissed<sup>10</sup> -

Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Expired Leopold King of Belgium the Queens Uncle aged 74 - A wise & good Man, and dearly beloved by all both here and in his own Kingdom. He was the husband of Princess Charlotte, Daughter of Geo 4th (Qy? [Query?] was he not fond of Liaisons)<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Charles, who was an accountant, Peter Pilkington, a schoolteacher and Thomas Riley, a joiner, were charged with unlawfully wounding Adam Sharples with intent to cause grievous bodily harm at a public house in Rishton. The charge alleged that they threw gunpowder on the fire, causing an explosion. The landlady asked Sharples to go into the room on her behalf when the three men assaulted him by hitting over the head with a length of gas piping. His wound was so severe he needed to go to hospital where he stayed to receive treatment. After the initial court appeal, the three men were put on remand to appear again. Their second court appearance was in the Mayor's parlour before Alderman Dean. Dean, as magistrate, argued that the defendants had no intention of injuring Sharples and that they should shake hands on it as the defendants had agreed to pay Sharples compensation and expenses. The case was then dismissed. The *Blackburn Times*, in an editorial, attacked the Tory councillors and the action of the Watch Committee in denying the press access to information (*Blackburn Standard*, 6 December 1865; *Blackburn Times*, 9 December 1865).

<sup>11</sup> Leopold, who was then Prince Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, married Princess Charlotte, the only legitimate child of the later George IV, on 2 May 1816. Charlotte was the next in line to the throne after her father. She died after giving birth to a stillborn son on 7 November 1817. Leopold remained in Claremont House and was granted £50,000 by Parliament. While he remained in London, Leopold had several mistresses. He left London in 1831 after he was invited to become King of the Belgians (Kate Williams, *Becoming Queen* (London, 2009), pp. 107-8, 112-19, 122-3, 176, 203).