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Jan 1. 1867 A bright frosty - The Reform Demonstration plenty of Banners and Bands of Music but the Procession, predicted for 30,000 was short of the last Cypher.¹ Hard frost up to the 5th when a thaw set in and lasted until the 10th at night - It re-commenced freezing -- On the 12th heavy fall of Snow.

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[January] 3rd Died after Three Days sickness Mr Benjⁿ Sandford Auctioneer, a person for whom at one time I did much printing. He has left a large family. The mortality of Lodge 345 of which Mr Sandford was a Member has been very great during the last 20 Months.

There having been Death:

Viz

Joseph Pearson PM	Tho ^s Butterfield; S.W.
Ellis Heath, PM.	Adam Duckworth S.W.
James Houlker P.M.	Ralph Abbott, Sec ^y .
Andrew Holden	John Yates, P.M.
Joseph Bolton, PM.	Benj Sandford, SW.

[January] 9th Attended the funeral of B Sandford, about 70 persons present.

[January] 9th At Preston - Dowager Lady Feilden Died in her 90th Year - And Sam Hibbert aged 64 years.

[January] 13th Died after a severe and painful Illness Joseph Feilding, White Bull Hotel aged 48 years, His end was peace. - [January] 14th Awfully sudden Mr Critchley Bacon Factor -

[January] 17th We buried at Immanuel Ch: Oswaldtwistle Mr Joseph Feilding, a Worthy Man - In the Evening I went to the St John's of Clayton-le-Dale with a large Comp^y of Brethren - The Evening was spent in a rational Manner and we arrived home at 11 pm. The excitement of the day had the effect of making me very sick in the night-time & kept in from work -

Continued hard frost up to the 21st [January] A Dreadful accident at London on the Ice more than 40 persons drowned at Regents Park (15th Jan.)² A thaw set in on the 23rd [January] and in a few days all signs of the severe frost had disappeared -

Feb 2 Law. Charnley Died aged 58. - 6th [February] at Manchester - nasty day - The Houses of Parliament, met and the Queen's Speech delivered to the great satisfaction of all reasonable people. - 17th [February] Richard 24th Birthday - all well thank God. - Night fall of snow.

J B. S Sturdy Died at a private Asylum aged 58 Years. Sturdy was a J.P. and an Ex Mayor of the Town. He was supposed to be the natural Son of the late James Barlow, Esq. Surgeon &c There was a public funeral on the 15th [February] About 100 Gent & fifteen Carriages. He was buried at the Parish Church.

¹ The demonstration was in support of extending the franchise to the working classes, organised by reform groups from East Lancashire and Preston, with the support of trade organisations and Sunday school teachers. The *Preston Herald* considered it 'in every way a complete success' but did not estimate the numbers taking part, although it claimed 'it took ... rather more than half an hour to pass any given point'. The *Blackburn Standard*, however, deemed it 'humiliating, crushing, and even mortifying ... [when] no greater number than 2,600 people could be got together including women and boys' after, it claimed, 20,000 to 30,000 were expected to march (*Blackburn Standard*, 2 January 1867; *Preston Herald*, 5 January 1867).

² 39 people drowned, and one died from exposure afterwards, when the ice broke on the Regent's Park lake during a slight thaw and skaters fell into the water (*Blackburn Standard*, 30 January 1867).

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[February] 15th Died Mr Tho^s Brennand - a worthy Townsman aged 69. He was actuary at the Savings Bank -

Mr W Wood late Bookseller succeeded him.

March 1 Clear, bright and frosty - with East Winds. A Continuance of the same up to the 12th [March] excessively cold - Fells covered with Snow but not a heavy downfall.

March 11th Died The Rev Canon Irving Rom Cath Priest of St Alban's Died - Interred at Cemetery.

[March] 14th Annual Meeting of the Over Darwen Gas Company 7/- per Cent declared - a satisfactory Meeting.

[March] 18th The Wind still Easterly and extremely cold. Large Falls of Snow in many places. - Towards Evening there was a heavy Snow Storm -

Mem. We have now at the Parish Church Rev J Taylor and the Rev R Mayall - both excellent Men and good preachers.

[March] 21st Died early this Morning James Forrest the Father in law of my Son Thomas - after a very short time. He has left Seven children all Orphans. There can be little doubt but heavy losses The death of his Wife weighed heavily upon him - I hope some providential arrangement will be made for his children.

[March] 22nd Heavy fall of Snow exceedingly Wintry Weather ending in a complete Thaw.

[March] 19th Attended the Quarterly Meeting of the Burial Society and carried a Resolution for a Donation of £50 and an Annual Subscription of £10.0.0 towards the support of the Bⁿ Infirmary -

[March] 24th Sunday At the Parish Church - the Revd J Taylor improved the death of James Forrest in an eloquent from Lamentations c. 1 - v. 12th.

April 1. The end of March tho' not very dry was more favourable to vegetation and the last day was very fine & genial.

[April] 2nd Died James Callis, aged 49 at Ashton under Lyne leaving a Widow and five children, I attended the funeral on the sixth and was deeply affected by the sorrow & bereavement of his poor Widow & fatherless children.

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What I can do among others, will be cheerfully rendered to help them.

On the 4th [April] Died, after a very long and painful disease, Mr William Eaves, the Secretary of the Blackburn Philanthropic Burial Society & the Assurance Society -

April 14th Sunday The Third Anniversary since the operation for the Stone - for which deliverance I thank Almighty God. -

Within the last Week my shop has been like a livery³ being visited by the Vicar, Mayor, Clergymen, Aldermen, Councillors & others to consult on private & public business.

[April] 19th Good Friday. Attended with family the Parish Church at Communion Morning, a good sermon from Dr Rushton. Afternoon went to Mytham but it came on rain in the Evening - This Day died at Blackpool my much respected Medical Man, Tho^s Pickop, Esq Aged 32. - His loss will be seriously felt both by his family & the public to whom he was a devoted & skilful servant.

David Kearton, Man^{fr} Livesey died.

³ A legal office dealing with property: *OED* 'livery office' n. C2.

Easter Day ([April] 21) At Parish Morning the Rev R Mayall - He is not here - he is risen - A good practical Sermon.

([April] 20) Day before the Bishop held a Confirmation, there were nearly 1100 candidates

[April] 23. Jacob Duckworth foreman of the Lamp Lighters Died aged 62. - Anniversary of Female Friendly Society - Attended the Funeral of Mr Tho^s Pickop Surgeon - to whom, under Gods Providence, I owe my life.

May 12. Died Tho^s Livesey Jun^r Son of Mr Livesey Sexton (aged 43 Years) - A bad undutiful Son - Poor Tom Jackson, Barber who died about the same date - an old & early School Mate. -

The business fair - but money scarce. The weather of June genial spring - alternated with cold East Winds - with rain, hail or snow - The night of the 20th [May] dreadful storm destroying much bloom & new Potatoes.

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[May] 23rd Prov Grand Conclave of Knight Templars held in this Town. -

[May] 16th Presentation of Purse - 100 Guineas - and Silk Gown to the Rev James Taylor, Curate of P. Church I acted as Chairman of the Committee

After a variable May - wherein were some fierce cold Days - the Weather became more genial and though much rain fell - it settled about the 7th of June and we had one of the most magnificent Whitsuntides that I ever remember - The Railway did an enormous traffic on the 8th, 9th, 10th & 11th and also throughout the Week. It was computed there were not fewer than 40,000 Tickets used on Whitmonday the 10th of June.

[June] 6th Broadbent & Tiplady Dissolved partnership⁴

[June] 15th Died John Taylor, Esq Morton Hall, aged 64

Also W. D. Coddington, Esq, aged 68 formerly an Alderman of this Borough - Buried St John's We acted per Auditors together - 1st Year of the Corporation

Work slack Money scarce, spirits depressed, wealth Moderate.

£15 from John Baynes Esq - F. F [Female Friendly] Society.

[June] 23rd to 26th Magnificent Summer Weather - passed my 59th Year on Sunday when all children at Home Dined with me; - Tho^s at Liverpool has now six children -

July 4th Letter from Richard, going to stop 3 years longer, and to be married - £500 per year

[July] 15th The Reform Bill read a third time - in the H of Commons. -

[July] 22nd Burial Board Meeting - stormy - Gregson very insulting - Lost all his Motions - My Son appointed Auditor⁵ -

Aug 6. My Eldest Daughter this day attained her majority, on occasion of which happy Event her Brothers Sister and friends enjoyed a Picnic at Whittle Springs. The day was delightfully fine, and all spent a very pleasant day.

⁴ The partnership was between Tiplady's son, Charles Lomax Tiplady, and Robert Dickinson Broadbent who were Public Accountants and General Agents. Broadbent continued the business. Charles Lomax established his own business as accountant and estate and general agent in Blackburn (*Blackburn Standard*, 12 June 1867; *Preston Herald*, 29 June 1867).

⁵ Charles Lomax Tiplady was elected as auditor along with Mr. P. F. Turner. Councillor Gregson was involved in heated debates about the election of 3 members of the Burial Board as well as support for reappointing the previous auditors. At the end of a meeting Gregson, who was a Temperance lecturer, became involved in fracas which only ended with the appearance of a police detective. The *Preston Herald* headlined its report 'Councillor Gregson not drunk, but very disorderly' (*Preston Herald*, 27 July 1867).

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[August] 8th Thursday, The Mayor Annual Fishing Excursion took place this Day when upwards of seventy of his Friends accompanied him Fleetwood, and embarked on the fine Steamer the Wyre, a very pleasant day was spent but there was too heavy a swell for fishing

Aug 15 Reform Bill passed.

Aug 15th My 28th Wedding Day - Left home with Mrs Tiplady to Lancaster and thence to Hest Bank, where lodged for 2 nights - a nice quite [sic] place within 3 Minutes walk of the Railway. - 16th [August] To Morecambe and selected Lodgings with Mrs Heathcote 17th [August] Sat^y to Lancaster Market very wet day all through - 18th [August] to Poulton Church, - Friday visited Carnforth Afternoon to Heysham (18) 19th [August] to Windermere Morning very wet - sailed up the Lake to Ambleside and back to Morecambe - Eveng very fine 20th [August] At Morecambe - 21st [August] Wed^y sailed to Grange - a most beautiful place on the opposite side of the Bay. 22nd [August] To Caton & Hornby by Rails very fine day - Walked by Halton to Lancaster - Friday rested all day - walked in the Eveng to Hest Bank - 24th [August] Sailed to Blackpool & spent the Afternoon there from there to Lytham, where we slept at Mrs Harwood - Sunday (25) [August] Lytham old Church, - Monday Home again, all well.

Sep 3rd - Heavy and unusual Thunder Storm for Sep - Fine up till now

[September] 2nd Telegram Boy, maimed at Daisy Field Station. Leg amputated.⁶ -

Weather changeable nevertheless Harvest well secured in the South and Midland. -

[September] 12th Thursday, the Brethren of Lodge 345 presented me with a most beautiful & costly PMs Jewell for my humble Services on the Charity Committee & as Treasurer of the Lodge, a Gift certainly magnificent & I think far beyond my deserts. P.M. Hutchinson presented it on behalf of the Lodge in a very elaborate and eloquent address

[September] 18th paid Sister Margaret £22:0: towards my Debt

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Sep 23rd To Day a special Meeting of the Subscribers to the District Committee SPCK was held to receive resignation of the President & Treasurer and to wind up the affairs of the District Committee

1st The resignation accepted.

2nd The Dissolution resolved upon

3rd Mr Tiplady to pay £25:0:0 for the Bibles Testament & Prayer Books.

4th The remainder of the Books to be distributed among the Churches in the Town, also the surplus Cash

5th The following Gents to form Committee for the Division of the Cash & Books

Att^g Rev C. W. Woodhouse

" J. Barker

" R. Mayall

" H. Wescoe

" D. Robinson.

6th £10 to be given to the Parent Society -

7th Thanks were voted to the Archdeacon

8th Thanks were also voted to the Agent.

Thus ended my 35th Year of Agency with the Society

⁶ Samuel Robinson had his right foot amputated after being dragged about 7 yards when trying to board when it was moving at around 4 miles an hour (*Blackburn Standard*, 4 September 1867).

Tuesday Afⁿ at Worsthon - No Nuts
 Thursday at Preston Mr Beard.
 Friday at Over Darwen Board Meeting - Ev^s Mutual Assurance
 Sunday Morn at St Paul's eloquent Sermon from Mr Marychurch Lam. III 41. Eveng
 Trinity Rev E Eager Sermon on the false Repentance of Esau - read a portion of Lord Clive
 Life by Macauley.
 [September] 30th Councillor Robt Porter Died, a very worthy and respectable Burgess.
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Oct 19. Died suddenly, Mrs Glazebrook, wife of the Rev I. K Glazebrook, Lower
 Darwen -
 [October] 21. Richard Crankshaw, esq J.P. aged 46, a very worthy & respectable Man

-
 John Balshaw, formerly Bell Man⁷, aged 55
 James Riding, formerly Innkeeper, and Driver of the Coach to Manchester - aged 55.
 He also kept the Bay Horse and Castle Inn. -

Died also about the 23rd [October] Mr Thomas Bentley formerly Schoolmaster of the
 National School, and also for several years Churchwarden of the Parish Church, a venerable
 and worthy old Townsman & highly respected aged 81 years.

[October] 27th Died John Aspden, Plasterer, I suppose one of the "oldest Inhabitants"
 aged 88.

Nov^r 1. Municipal Election - Nine Liberals and Three Conservatives returned to the
 Town Council

A very severe contest in St Mary's Ward - polling as under.

Constantine Liberal		216
Ellston,	Con	210
Hartley	Con	207
Henry	Lib	<u>201</u>

It is to be noted that both parties polled an equal number of votes 217 - Total 434 - on
 the List - 461. unpolled and dead 27 persons only.

[November] 7th To Manchester, Prov Grand Meeting at Hulme - not much business -
 A Motion of condolence moved to the Widow of the late Law. Newell DPGM who died on
 the 1st deeply lamented - Bro. Radcliffe, Robinson & Redmanye also present. Also Dr Stocks
 who died shortly afterwards - aged 75 years. - 9 [November]/ Smith, Mayor.

[November] 17th At St John's - Mr Hield, Bay Horse, to Mrs Lydia Houlker, Widow
 of James Houlker, - Married

[November] 23rd Allen, Larkin & Gould, the three Fenians concerned in the Murder
 of Sergeant Brett were this Day hung at the Old Bailey prison, Salford, Manchester, - All
 passed off peaceably - M'Guire had been pardoned & Shore respited during the Queen's
 pleasure. The day was very foggy - a row was expected.⁸

⁷ A man who attracted attention by ringing a bell before making announcements; a town-crier: *OED* 'bellman',
 n.

⁸ William Allen, Michael Larkin and Michael O'Brien (Gould) were hung for the murder of Sergeant Charles
 Brett who died after been hit by a single gunshot during a successful assault by thirty or forty armed men on a
 van carrying Thomas Kelly and Timothy Deasy, two Fenian organisers who had been arrested in Manchester in
 September 1867. Kelly and Deasy escaped never to be recaptured. The three executed men became divisive
 figures. To many Catholics they became the 'Manchester Martyrs' whereas to the Protestants the incident
 became the 'Manchester Outrages' (Alan Kidd, *Manchester A History* (Lancaster, 2006), pp. 173-4).

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Nov 28th Died, aged 75 years Dr Stock Surgeon a most respectable & valuable Member of Society - He was a B^r of the Craft.

[November] 29th Over Darwen Gas Meeting -

The Town was much scandalised by the delinquencies of Mr David Nicol of the District Bank who was arrested for Forgery on Tuesday Evening - He was the Manager of the Bank, had a handsome salary of £600 per annum, but by dabbling in Cotton lost all his Money, and in order to redeem his losses - made bad worse by resorting to fraud.⁹ -

The Month of Dec^r was rough and winterly yet not much Frost. There was no particular occurrence transpired in the Town, except that a large number of Special Constables were sworn in to put down any attempt at Riot by the Fenians.¹⁰

On the 31st [December] Died Henry Haworth Esq. Solicitor aged 75 Years - One thing remarkable about him was that he possessed a very large amount of poor Cottage Property. The year ended peacefully. Blessed be the Almighty for all his Mercies. - 27th [December] St John's Held very throng 82 sat down -
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⁹ David Nicol, 53, who had worked for the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company in Blackburn for around 25 years, was found guilty of fraud by forging cheques. The fraud was not for his own benefit but to finance £7,000 worth of bills, part of which had been discounted using his own money, that had become worthless after recent bank failures (*Blackburn Standard*, 11 March 1868).

¹⁰ The Blackburn newspapers provide no evidence of the threat of Fenian violence in the town. The tension between Protestants and Catholics in Blackburn had been heightened when William Murphy, an anti-Catholic lecturer, held a series of meetings in Blackburn in October and November, concluding with a 'Great Protestant and Orange Demonstration'. No serious confrontation developed partly due to the call for restraint among the Catholic community (John Wolfe, 'Murphy, William (1834-1872)', *ODNB*; *Blackburn Standard*, 16 October, 6 & 13 November 1867; *Blackburn Times*, 9 & 16 November 1867).