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The Year commenced calm, and rather cold. An immense quantity of Game & Meat were exhibited for sale, and upon the whole I think a very fair average happy New Year's Day was enjoyed.

[January] 4<sup>th</sup> Died very suddenly Mr Robt Riley, partner of W. H Hornby, Esq, Brookouse Mills, a very worthy and upright young Man and one in whom Mr Hornby placed great confidence.

About the same time Chris<sup>r</sup> Tattersall Councillor & James Bell, solicitor

[January] 9<sup>th</sup> The remains of Robt Riley were conveyed to the Cemetery on which occasion the Workpeople of Blackburn formed a funeral procession, about 800 Male & Female being present - He was very highly respected.

[January] 10<sup>th</sup> Attended the funeral of C. Tattersall, about 22 Masons present.

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[January] 16<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Letter from Richard - 15 Days late by reason of an accident to the Mail Steamer<sup>1</sup> - Richard married Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 1867 to Miss Annie Clement of Bahia - She died in 2 or 3 years afterwards -

[January] 17 ~~Thursday~~ Friday - The Melancholy intelligence of Dr Robinson's death of Holy Trinity was communicated to us. - In him the Ch of England has lost one of its most staunch supporters. He was a rigid opponent to Popery. A very sincere Friend to me - I hope the Doctor is taken to his reward.

The above was contraindicated, The Doctor was better.

About this time also died in the prime of Manhood Roger Forrest - after I fear a dissolute Life - Robert Pemberton, Angel Inn, - Peter R Parkinson, Pawnbroker

Monday, Jan 20. Died at the residence of W<sup>m</sup>. Pilkington Esq., The Grange, John Sparrow Esq. JP. a Gentleman long connected with the Town's affairs - a Roman Catholic and extreme liberal in Politics, but a high minded and Gentlemanly Man.

[January] 24 John Bank's, aged 65, 26 Robt Hubbestey Innkeeper, 28. William Newsham, of cancer in the face, painful illness & death. -

Mrs Bailey aged 77 years Widow of Dr Bailey.

Weather very dismal - Our Trade brisk especially work of all kinds -

Feb. was ushered in with a strong storm of Wind & Rain which did much damage to House Property - On this day died Mrs James Hilton, a very worthy Lady and one of my earliest acquaintances -

On the 5<sup>th</sup> [February] we had Letter from Son Richard informing us of his Marriage &c, he is well -

[February] 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday, My dear Wife had a paralytic stroke affecting the whole of the left side - but not so violent as to deprive her of speech. She had some time ago a very severe attack of Bronchitis. Of course we are all deeply affected under this Disperation [sic] - but our Faith in God who ordereth all things aright

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[February] 13<sup>th</sup> My Wife is no worse, but is quite powerless on her left side - Her spirits are much depressed.

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<sup>1</sup> A notice was posted at Lloyds on 8 January 1868 announcing the loss of the English mail steamer, Sauturn, with the loss of 400 lives. However, on investigation, no English steamer of that name was found and rumours of one of the casualties being an English government minister were refuted as he was alive in England (*London Daily News*, 9 January 1868).

It is singular but true, the 9<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>y</sup> has been a very ominous day in my life - or say from 8 to 10.

Lance[?] Day. Intelligence of the death of the Rev G Preston B.D. formerly Minister of Whalley Free Grammar Schools, week since. He was indeed a good Man, and useful in his day & generation - His age about 68 or 69 years. A most excellent and upright free mason.

[February] 15<sup>th</sup> Died the Rev D DeBoudrey Incumbent at Salesbury - The Rev D Rushton is also very ill indeed (Aged 82)

[February] 18<sup>th</sup> Attended the funeral at Whalley of my great and true friend the Rev G Preston, The number present was small and the funeral strictly private. The Vicar of Whalley performed the Service.

[February] 21<sup>st</sup> Friday 3 p.m. Death has added one more victim to the long list inserted in this Book. The Rev Dr W<sup>m</sup> Rushton, vicar, expired this day after a brief illness of 14 days - On the 8<sup>th</sup> he paid me a visit with his oldest Daughter, was taken poorly very shortly after and lingered on until this Afternoon - He was in his 70<sup>th</sup> year of his Age. Though Dr Rushton did not at first take to me, our acquaintance improved with time, and he was a sincere friend and often called at the shop, and in fact was very intimate & cordial.

[February] 27<sup>th</sup> Funeral of the Vicar. The Clergy, principal Inhabitants & Boys of the Grammar School assembled at the parish Church and formed a Procession headed by the Police to accompany the corpse of the late Revd Dr Rushton, who was buried at Walton-le-Dale. I attended and went forward to Walton-le-Dale. Funeral Service by Revd the [sic] J C Kershaw, vicar

March 7<sup>th</sup> Went down to Lytham to see my Wife whom I found better, and able to walk - The Weather at times very boisterous and Tides high - Left Lytham on the 11<sup>th</sup> and to Over Darwen Gas Meeting on the following day. A very quiet and comfortable Annual Meeting Dividend 7/- per cent.

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March 21. Again at Lytham - Mrs Tiplady better thank God. - Weather wild & rough high Tide - home on Tuesday - William laid up by the Quincy<sup>2</sup> -

March 27. Mr John Johnston, a Scotch Draper<sup>3</sup> well to do and highly respected hung himself in his own office -

[March] 28<sup>th</sup> Third time to Lytham to fetch home my Wife who is much better - John Brierley formerly of this Town was found drowned at Lytham on the Morning of Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>. I saw him the evening before - He was under the influence of Liquor and am afraid had led a disorderly Life -

Mr John Heptonstall an old Neighbour died aged 67.

April 8 Died John Salisbury Auctioneer, aged            a man of more than average ability, but I fear injured himself by intemperate habits - He had a brilliant opportunity to have distinguished himself as his connection was good & extensive

The Revd Edward Birch, Canon of Manchester succeeded the Rev John Rushton as vicar of this parish He read himself in on the 5<sup>th</sup> Day of April - 1868; - and preached the same night

May 1<sup>st</sup>. A great domestic scandal was this day exposed in the Town hall, in a case of affiliation between Councillor Beaty & Elizabeth Sharples The case was proved - 5/- a week

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<sup>2</sup> A swelling of the throat; tonsillitis: *OED* 'quincy', n.

<sup>3</sup> Itinerant trader who sells on credit: *OED* 'Scotch', adj. and n.3, 5.

& 2/6 for 13 years She was a Teacher in the Schools - She died shortly after - and his Character was blasted for ever. <sup>4</sup> -

[May] 5<sup>th</sup> At Manchester; Charity Committee obtained for Widow Pearson the sum of Ten Pounds in Instalments.

[May] 14<sup>th</sup> Very fine - down to Sawley - had Tea there with Mrs Tiplady, and Daughters, also Miss Briggs of Spalding - Th<sup>s</sup> Baldwin was there, and very graciously gave us a Ride from & to Chadburn [Chatburn].

[May] 15<sup>th</sup> Br J Pilkington PM was this Day interred with Masonic Honours at Great Harwood Church, aged 72.

[May] 16<sup>th</sup> To Accrington - Grand Procession, laying of Corner Stone Market House.  
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May 27<sup>th</sup> Died John Witherington, Esq, Surgeon - a young Man of great promise & abilities, - very learned in chemical Sciences, horticultural pursuits - A famous Lecturer on Microscopic subjects - He was a man greatly esteemed by all Classes - For several years he held the appointment of Medical Officer to the Volunteer Corps of this Town

Note - respecting the Weather of this Month - it must noted that it was exceedingly fine & the spring forward Oaks were nearly in full Leaf on the 29 - There was a very large show of May Bloom, Longer than was known for many years -

Whit Saturday - Down at Mr Duckworth's Farm which was very nice. We had a fishing Job and did very well May 30<sup>th</sup> 1868

On Whit Monday which was the first Day of June. - myself, Wife, Essie, Fanny, Harry & Miss Briggs went on a Cheap Trip to Windermere - The weather was delightfully fine and hot We sailed up the Lake to Ambleside, and had a ride all round Grass Mere Lake - Saw the Grave of W<sup>m</sup> Wordsworth. - The Scenery was exceedingly grand & sublime - We arrived home at 9-30 all weak except Polly who was very sick -

June 14. Sunday Mr Birch the vicar preached a very excellent Sermon in the Morning "If our Gospel be hid, it is hid to those who are lost". In the Afternoon, to Bamber Bridge - Mr Lee of Preston preached an elegant discourse, "Add to your faith & virtue, and to your Virtue, knowledge" Took Tea with my Daughter Fanny and a large Company at the parsonage House, and heard Mr Taylor in the Evening "Inasmuch as ye did it to one of the least of these my Brethren, ye did it unto me" The Congregations were large and a Liberal collection of £90-2-6 was obtained. Mr Ellis Nuttall drove me home in in his Phaeton.<sup>5</sup> -

Grand Masonic Festival, Lancaster

Wednesday June 17 1868

Visited Lancaster and attended the special Grand Lodge under the Earl of Zetland on laying the foundation Stone of the Royal Albert Asylum for Idiots & Imbeciles There was

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a large assembly of the Brethren - some say nearly 1500 in Procession, including the GM Marquis of Hartington, Lord de Tabley, Lord Kenlis, The High Sherriff - L G Starkie & many others. - The day was very fine and a great concourse of people attended. - In the Evening I visited Hest Bank & stayed all Night there - A very pleasant journey - From our Lodge these attended E. Eastwood, W M, John Rigby J. W. - D Turner S. D. W<sup>m</sup> Hurst J. W. R. Duckworth J. G. - R<sup>d</sup> Radcliffe I M Tho<sup>s</sup> Bertwistle P. M. Charles Tiplady, P. M. Geo Duerden, - John Procter, - Henry Duckworth, W Ainsworth, Denis Baron, John Forrest.

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<sup>4</sup> An order was made against Councillor Beatty for being the father of a child with Elizabeth Hayhurst, a verdict that was upheld on appeal. Margaret Hayhurst was given guardianship of the child in October 1868 (*Preston Herald*, 2 May 1868; *Blackburn Standard*, 8 July & 21 October 1868).

<sup>5</sup> Four wheel open carriage, usually drawn by a pair of horses: *OED* 'phaeton', n.3.

Lodge 345 Sourbutts PM Carr, - Smalley PM Sharples PM Armistead, Jno Thompson, 269 John Clough, Clarkson, Townley, Gillibrand, Spurr.

In all about 26 from the 3 Lodges.

Weather Magnificent all thro' June

[June] 20<sup>th</sup> Sudden Thunder Storm at Blackburn also on the following Day.

[June] 15 or 16 Died Alex<sup>r</sup> Pateson, Cotton Manufacturer.

June 23. (Tuesday) My Sixtieth Birthday Truly the shadows of Evening are falling fast around me. -

Time like an ever rolling stream

Bears all its sons away

They fly forgotten as a Dream

Dies at the opening Day.<sup>6</sup>

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto Wisdom. - Thanks be to God for all his sparing Mercies. Amen.

A Toothpick from my Daughters & Polly Briggs, our Guest, a pocket handkerchief from Lissie - my Daughter in Law, a most excellent Woman.

Died John Priestley of Accrington, a F Mason with whom I was well acquainted, aged 57. He was in my Shop a few days prior to his Death.

[June] 25<sup>th</sup> This day died Seth Harwood aged 84 years. He was for many years the Overseer of Over Darwen, and very highly respected.

[June] 26 Darwen Gas Meeting 40 present.

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I learned from Mr Cartwright that Mrs Forshaw died about the 11 or 12 of June, she was formerly Mrs Kenworthy and after his death married a Schoolmaster. I understand she had taken sadly to drinking. She left two daughters - by Mr K and 1 by Forshaw - the former well, and the latter badly provided for

[June] 25<sup>th</sup> Died Mr Alfred Brooks son of Mr Brooks Draper, very young - He had been to Madeira for his health, Mr B. has suffered severe domestic losses these several years - This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> son.

Sunday 28 [June]. Attended the parish Ch: Morning Sermon by the Vicar "For even Christ pleased not himself" - The discourse was an Homily against Self in every form and degree "The Christian Disciple must imitate his Divine Master by a perfect abnegation of Self, - evidenced by a life of usefulness to his fellow man. The vicar has not a pleasant voice, especially in the higher notes - but this defect is fully compensated by an earnest & emphatic delivery and a strict adherence to sound gospel doctrines.

Evening Trinity Rev W Webb on "Christ has abolished Death" Ye Ephesians - An eloquent discourse showing death to be unnatural & the Wages of Sin. Mr W. quoted Longfellow's Poem & also Dr Watts. His manner reminds one of listening to a person of disappointed expectations, somewhat hard but very faithful - The singing beautiful.

The Weather throughout the Entire of June has been magnificent & glorious - but the Farmers complain of Drought.

July 7<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Went on the Chorley Line with a number of Gentleman; very fine Day.

[July] 10<sup>th</sup> To Padiham on business with Mrs T and Polly Briggs, very fine, Wind E very dry.

[July] 8<sup>th</sup> Died Mr Hy Molyneux aged 48 years - He formerly lived in Blackburn.

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<sup>6</sup> A stanza from Isaac Watts' hymn 'Our God, Our Help in Ages Past'.

[July] 27 Excessively hot. The 21<sup>st</sup> was considered to be the hottest day ever known in England. Ther<sup>f</sup> [Thermometer] 101 in the Shade, 128 in the Sun - No rain all dried up & parched - Cholera cases prevalent.<sup>7</sup>

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My family have been afflicted with sickness particularly Fanny who had a narrow escape from death.

Aug<sup>t</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> The hottest day that I ever remember - Fanny better.

Aug 6 & 7 The Drought ended - with fine showers and in some places heavy thunder. Immense tracts of Ground & Timber burnt by the extreme heat.

Great preparations for the Coming elections Mr Maden Holt & Mr Starkie for North East Lancashire.

Aug 10<sup>th</sup> Died James Brooks, President of the Widow & Orphan's Society after a very short illness and on the 12<sup>th</sup> J Moses Pemberton of Brookhouse Mills, a very old Servant of Mr Hornby. - Truly we do fade away like the Grass, our each succeeding paragraph adds only to the long long list of of [sic] those departed from this scene of care and great troubles here on earth.

My family improved in health, Thank God.

[August] 16<sup>th</sup> Attended Great Harwood Sermons - Very throng and very hot. - Essie with me

[August] 18<sup>th</sup> Mother, Essie & Fanny to Southport.

[August] 20. There occurred on of the most dreadful accident by Railway and Fire that has ever happened in this Country - It was on the Rails from Chester to Holyhead. Some luggage Truck containing petroleum got detached and were run into by the Mail Train and a Dreadful collision transpired by which 26 persons were killed or burnt. Among these were Mr W B Parkinson & his Brother & Sons of C Parkinson Esq. and also their Brother-in-Law Mr W T Lund the mournful Event has been most painfully felt by all Classes in this Town.<sup>8</sup>

The above occurrence is fully confirmed and all the Newspapers are filled with horrible details - It is by far the most appalling [sic] catastrophe ever known in Railway Accident - The bodies were all burnt to a cinder & worse.

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Sep 10 My Son William Callis married at Holy Trinity Church, by the Rev Mr Bannister. After the ceremony we had Breakfast and then a Drive around Stonyhurst. It was very fine - to Miss Isabella Towers -

[September] 19<sup>th</sup> Died Mrs Geo. Ainsworth, late Miss Cort aged 45 years also Sam<sup>l</sup> Wardle, Royal Oak Inn, - aged 48

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> Great Liberal Demonstration & Procession for Gerald Potter, M J Feilden, K Shuttleworth & Mr Fenton, about 4000 in the ranks<sup>9</sup> -

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<sup>7</sup> No deaths from cholera were reported in Blackburn for two weeks in July (*Preston Chronicle*, 11 & 25 July 1868).

<sup>8</sup> 33 people died in the accident near Abergele when the Irish Mail train ran into trucks being shunted on the mainline ahead of the mail train. Two of the trucks contained barrels of paraffin. Among the dead were some of Ireland's wealthiest people who were travelling back to their homes in Ireland. William B. Parkinson, who was travelling to the Lakes of Killarney, had bribed the driver of his train to Liverpool to go at full speed so that he would catch his connection to meet the mail train at Chester. This was the most serious railway accident in Britain at this time (Robert Hume, *Irish Examiner*, <https://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/arid-30863653.html> [accessed 22 February 2021]).

<sup>9</sup> The Liberal supporting *Blackburn Times* estimated the number taking part as 8,800 with the procession being two and a half miles long. Many incidences of violence broke out with several arrests, principally of

[October] 24<sup>th</sup> Great Tory Demonstration & Procession large numbers of Horsemen, Carriages & Banners between 5 & 6000 in ranks for W. H Hornby, Jos Feilden, - Messrs Starkie & Holt.<sup>10</sup>

I was present at the inauguration of the Widow & Orphan's Fund at Over Darwen this Night (24)

Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, Great Municipal Election, all the Wards contested - Con won in four Wards and lost in 2.

The following is the Poll for St Mary's -

H. Duckworth (C)	253
G. P Hartley (C)	250
Henry (L)	223
Beads (L)	219

One Man, Patrick Gallaher died from the effects of a wound received at this Election, a second died on the 5<sup>th</sup> and many were very severely wounded.<sup>11</sup> -

The Irishman was buried (Nov 8) about 700 walked on the procession with Green favors

The above Election was followed by the Parliamentary one

W. H Hornby	4980
Jos Feilden	4890
J. G Potter	4407
M J Feilden	4183 <sup>12</sup>

The Election was orderly except by the Irish<sup>13</sup>

[November] 19<sup>th</sup> Died William Durham, a particularly original character - and as changeable in his

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*Had no good reputation, T. Tiplady*

opinions as a chemelion [chameleon] in colour. In his Youth he was a teacher in Grimshaw Park and one of the very few left who were my colleague. -

{*Proved to be in his later years a vile traducer of character & virtue I nearly thrashed him*

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Conservative supporters for attacking Liberals and Irish (*Blackburn Standard*, 14 & 21 October 1868; *Blackburn Times* 17 & 24 October 1868).

<sup>10</sup> Like the Liberal demonstration, the estimates for the numbers taking part depended on political affiliation. The *Blackburn Standard* estimated that 6-8,000 took part, whereas the *Blackburn Times* put the number at 5,000. Unlike around the Liberal events, few incidences of violence were reported (*Blackburn Standard*, 28 October 1868; *Blackburn Times*, 31 October 1868).

<sup>11</sup> Patrick Gallagher was the only person to die as a result of violence during the Municipal Elections although incidents were reported in four out of six wards. Gallagher died two days after being hit on the head by PC Ramsbottom during fighting near the polling station in St. Mary's ward. During the inquest Gallagher's wife admitted Liberals had paid her 4 shillings (20p) for her husband's actions but claimed she did not know if he had been employed as a 'staffman' (*Blackburn Standard*, 4 November 1868; *Blackburn Times*, 7 November 1868).

<sup>12</sup> The declared result was slightly different: Hornby 4907, J. Feilden 4826, Potter 4399, M. Feilden 4164 (*Blackburn Standard*)

<sup>13</sup> Violence was associated with the borough election, including a further death that was represented as politically motivated. At the nomination, Conservatives threw stones at Liberals who displayed a cartoon of 'the Tory Screw'. Polling was free of violence after efforts to prevent large crowds gathering and increasing the number of polling booths. In the evening fighting broke out between Conservative supporters and some Irish after the Conservatives had paraded near one of Blackburn's Irish quarters. Also, on the same evening, Thomas Whittaker was murdered. The two accused, Thomas Fallon and Daniel Duxbury were acquitted at their trial in Liverpool. The motive for the attack on Whittaker was represented as political because, it was claimed, he shouted a slogan in support of Hornby, one of the Conservatives elected. However, no account was taken of the family relationship between Duxbury and Whittaker as a motive for the attack (*Blackburn Standard*, 18 & 25 November, 23 & 30 December 1868; *Blackburn Times*, 28 November, 5 & 26 December 1868).

*in Public for a gross insult to my Mother's memory*}<sup>14</sup>

T. Tiplady

[November] 20<sup>th</sup> Died John Rayner, Keeper of the Con News Room.

[November] 21<sup>st</sup> The first great County Election for the North Eastern Division of Lancashire took place this Day - The polling was very animated and the contest close. The following were the candidates,

	Votes
J Maden Holt	3619
L. Chamberlain Starkie	3611
J Fenton,	3441
U S Shuttleworth	3465 <sup>15</sup>

The two former were returned by a majority ranging from 150 to 180 Votes.

There was a great excitement, and I understand a vast amount of money changed hands.<sup>16</sup>

[November] 23<sup>rd</sup> Obtained a Grant of £15.0.0 for Widow Pilkington the relict of B<sup>f</sup> James Pilkington, 345.

[November] 25<sup>th</sup> published B<sup>n</sup> Year Book 3<sup>rd</sup> Issue

The Radicals presented a petition against the Return of Mr Hornby & Mr Feilden for Bribery, Corruption and undue Influence.<sup>17</sup>

Dec all through very wet without frost.

Christmas Day (Friday) Wet following on the Sunday by a tremendous storm of Wind & Rain, and also in the evening Thunder & Lightning - My daughter Fanny very poorly at Liverpool, had to send Essie to her

[December] 28<sup>th</sup> St Johns Festival of the Lodge - very comfortable and pleasant Meeting -

[December] 30<sup>th</sup> To the Lodge at Clitheroe, St John's Festival very good meeting. Had much Liberty in speaking. D Baron sang most admirably. B<sup>f</sup> Cal [page torn] also went from B<sup>n</sup> J D. Thornber.

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<sup>14</sup> Notes added by Thomas Tiplady, Tiplady's son.

<sup>15</sup> Declared result: Maden Holt 3612, Chamberlain-Starkie 3594, Kay-Shuttleworth 3463, Fenton 3441 (*Blackburn Standard*, 25 November 1868).

<sup>16</sup> A further clash between Irish and Conservative supporters broke out near an Irish quarter after Nomination for the County election on 18 November (*Blackburn Standard*, 25 November 1868).

<sup>17</sup> See f/n 344 below.