

1871

Jan 1. Sunday Attended the Parish Church in the Morning - Sermon by the Vicar, 62nd Psalm "My Expectation is from Him" a homely & practical Discourse - The Church was rather Slender no doubt owing to the very severe cold weather with a keen Blast from the S. East all day. In the Afternoon visited my Son William with Fanny & Essy - In the Evening with Mrs Tiplady - reading -

[January] 5th The festival of St John held, Lodge of Perseverance 345 about 86 Brethren present. The V. W. D Prov' G. Master installed the W. M. Davis Towers - A very pleasant and instructive Meeting broke up at Eleven - Br. J H Robinson presided at the Piano - He died suddenly on the 10th Inst. tho' he appeared cheerful on the Ev^g attended to yet he had been poorly a very long time. He was organist of St Peter's Parish Church.

The frost partially gave way on the 5th & 6th but again commenced on the 7th with some Snow in various - This Morning the 11th it freezes with intensity, and there is every appearance of a Continuance

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[January] 15th Frost remitted all day - The remains of Mr J. H Robinson Organist of St Peter's Ch. were interred this day at the Cemetery - About 40 Masons attended - The Rev C W Woodhouse officiated - and a Choir of Singers performed the Anthem very beautifully. -

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Tuesday Jan 24th [January] Tho^s Thwaites Esq interred the Brother of D Thwaites at the

[January] 26. Very partial Thaw about the 20 & 21st but when the New Moon appeared the Frost re-commenced with great severity. - Clear, cold, biting East Winds - but not much Snow.

The fearful Struggle between France and Prussia continues but it is thought the French cannot hold out long and that Paris must surrender. -

[January] 27th News of Capitulation of Paris - arrived, after dreadful suffering - Terms not fully realised[?], Paris to be revictualled

[January] 31st This Day was remarkable on account of a Torchlight Skating recreation upon the Rishton Reservoir. Many Thousand people were assembled. The Ice very firm - No accidents except falls one Gent Mr Ellston unfortunately broke his right wrist bone. - The Weather severe, dull, and dreadfully cold to the End -

Feb 1. John Ibbotson, Accountant died aged

Feb 9. Visited Manchester on Business -

[February] 12th After a variable week the Weather became intensely cold on Saturday the 12th when there commenced a heavy Storm of Snow lasting all night.

March came on gentle but after a few days it resumed its old freeze.

9th March Thursday. Annual Meeting of the Over Darwen Gas Co. Very successful year. My Son was re-appointed Auditor - Mr James Gibson a Member of the Board died - from the effects of an accident, aged 75. - A very worthy, quiet old Man. Mr Baron chimney blown down and Mr Walsh, by the negligence of his Sons, got fined £100 for an infringement of the Factory Act -

[March] 12th Cold, wild & Stormy. The Vicar preached from Father forgive them for they know what they do. He seemed to aim at Some one of the Congregation.

[March] 13th Heavy Thunder, rain & Wind.

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[March] 14 & 15. The first day very cold & stormy ending in heavy snow. 15 Heavy keen hard frost and very slippery.

[March] 16th Tremendous fall of snow exceedingly cold & wintry weather. Wild March

[March] 17th At Accrington St John's. Mr Romaine Callender present and many Brethren a very pleasant night. - Home 9.45. - Shock of an Earthquake 11.5 pm. I did not feel it.

[March] 23 R T. Meeting - Th^s Wright of Bolton was present. a full no.

[March] 25th A distressing Accident by Fire took place this Morning at the Confectioner Shop Top of King Street by which Three lives were lost by suffocation and one person Mrs Dewhurst was almost miraculously saved by leaping from a Window 3 Stories [sic] high.

On the same Evening after a rather sultry day there came a very heavy Thunder Storm which lasted some time -

Borrowed this Day of R^d Thompson Esq. £15.0.0 Daughters went Lytham.

April 6 - Meeting of the New Assurance Society 138 New Policies - W Kenyon Poor Rate Collector died on the 5th & this Evening at the Lodge died Mr Richard Eaves, very highly Esteemed by all the Masonic Fraternity - Aged 58.

See after^{ds}

All thro' March & April France in a state of Revolution and Bloodshed.

April 7th Good Friday Parish Church, capital Sermon by the Vicar "Woman behold thy son" a very affecting Discourse

April 9. Easter Sunday. Sermon by the Vicar John XI 21 &c. - Lord if thou had been here my Brother had not died. The Rev Genⁿ defended the character of Martha from many unjust aspersions, the Sermon was eloquent and beautiful -

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April 10. Easter Monday, the funeral of Mr Richard Eaves took place this day at the Cemetery. He was buried with full Masonic honours, and about 70 of the Brethren formed a Procession. The Rev J Baker & C Hughes officiated. There was also full choral Service, and Br Ainsworth W M of 269 read the funeral Address - A large number of Spectators attended at the Cemetery to witness this deeply interesting & affecting Ceremony. -

[April] 14th A Prayer for merciful deliverance from a painful disease, and death. O merciful God who hast spared my life after great affliction & toil, received my humble thanks for this great Mercy and grant that by Grace helping me, I may in all my public and private duties, I may be found faithful

[April] 16th Sunday down to St Peter's Sermon by the Rev W. L. Feilden, - David love of the Courts of God from Psalm 84. - The Rev Gentⁿ made an allusion to the dreadful state of France at Paris showing the wickedness of the French People in dishonouring God, & the consequent judgement. In the Evening to Trinity - Sermon Rev W. Stones, Acts 16th v. - "Do thyself no harm" a very plain and faithful discourse, against the sin of Drunkenness.

Died on the 7th [April] Mr Tho^s Oddie formerly of this Town the protegee of Mr John Eccles, and on the 15th [April] at Leyland John Eccles, Esq. the originator of St John's Sunday School, - Sick Society - Female Friendly Society, and other good & useful Institutions, aged 71 years - The living fruits of this Man's labours were yet to be seen, and

will endure for Generations to come. So passeth away one good stay¹ & another - but God remaineth - and his Word will not fail

April 29. The New Schools belonging the Parish Church were opened this day - by the Bishop of Manchester. - There was a large Tea Party in the Evening.

[April] 30th Sermons at Holy Trinity by the Rev J Doyle of Manchester - The Evening Discourse was on the present position & prospects of the Church of England. An eloquent discourse.

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May 7th, I went down to Ribchester and attended service at Lydd Church, when a Sermon was preached by the Venerable Rector T. R. Haslewood. There was a good Congregation Morning & Evening. Collections very niggardly surprisingly so for so respectable an attendance. - The text was from the Epistle of St James "For every good gift, and every perfect Gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father with whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning".

Mr John Parkinson, a very excellent and pious Man died Aged 62 years no doubt he is gone to rest.

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May 11th The Prov G. Lodge was held at the Mechanics' Institution Burnley, where I delivered office PGL. Mr Starkie presided. We assembled dined at the Wall Inn. - It was a comfortable business Meeting but the Rooms were dirty - The room for the Prov^l Officers sadly too small & crowded.

[May] 20th Died Mrs Eltoft aged 78 years, Burnley, a very worthy and respectable Widow.

[May] 24th Queen's Birthday, aged 53 years - Telegrams that certain places in Paris were in Flames - especially the Louvre & the Tuilleries - The Commune fled and Tiers & N. [National] Assembly Triumphant.²

[May] 27th Saturday. Whitsun Eve, a Thunder Storm in the Afternoon. Large number of people going to the Sea Side. I went down to Lytham and Blackpool and staid until Tuesday Evening with my Wife, Son Charles & his Wife - There were a vast throng on Monday from all parts, especially from Bⁿ.

[May] 29th Had a beautiful Drive on the old road to Blackpool. It was very fine and warm. Saw a large Bakery Establishment (Walkers) in the Country. Bake six packs per week - Also inspected his Garden and vinery -

June 4th At Feniscowles - Sermon by Mr Leighton Isaiah 55. 1. "Ho every one that thirsteth" a good practical discourse. Afterwards to Tea with H. Waddington

[June] 7th Married Miss Blomley to her cousin James Forrest, and yet not her cousin by Marriage of his Father Miss B became his Sister in law and Mrs Forrest is Mother to them in a Threefold first naturally to her Daughter 2nd by Marriage to James Forrest to his Son - 3rd by this Marriage to them both as Son & Daughter

¹ Figuratively, someone who provides support: *OED* 'stay', n.2, 1.b.

² This was part of the *Semaine Sanglante* (Bloody Week) that marked the end of the Paris Commune. On March 18 1871, after the end of the Siege of Paris during the Franco Prussian War, the French army entered Paris to take control but were confronted by residents of working class districts. After two generals had been killed, the army retreated. For the next two months France was ruled as a revolutionary commune. The commune organised local elections, passed legislation and fought the national government. The French army entered Paris on 21 May and began a week of bloody street battles which led to the defeat of the Commune. Adolphe Thiers was the chief executive of the French national government and, after the defeat of the Commune, became president (Julia Catherine Nicholls, 'French Revolutionary Thought after the Paris Commune, 1871-1885', Queen Mary University of London Ph.D. Thesis (2015)).

[June] 7th Borrowed of the Green Bank Lodge the sum of Sixty Pounds @ £5 per cent Lodged with the Trustees Security Five Darwen Gas Share Certificates, No^s 354 &c also a Promissory Note

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June 15th Went to Manchester, very wet all day. John Robinson was paid the £80 which I borrowed from him in 1866 to pay off the Preston Banking Co. - with all Interest thereon. Caught very severe cold.

[June] 17th This Day received the Melancholy intelligence of my Son Richard Wife's death at Bahia after an illness of 3 or 4 month - She has left 2 very young children - I pray God he may have fortitude to bear this heavy loss & trial.

[June] 23rd I am now 63 years old - I pray the Almighty to pardon a Life's Sins for Christ sake, and to give grace to fulfil all my station with integrity. I offer unfeigned thanks for innumerable life mercies and pray for all my Children and Friends to be Blessed of God.

These paragraphs are misplaced.

1871 Nov 7th To Manchester - Day fine - Mrs T. also there Attended the Charity Committee, and voted for several Grants. It is however to be regretted that Lodges do not take better care to represent their cases to the Committee - Home 9-30 evening Wet.

Nov 9. Thursday Mr Tho^s Bury late Pawnbroker was this day elected Mayor -

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Sunday the 16th [July] Attended the Parish Church, Sermon by the Curate, on the necessity of self-abrogation by warning in whatever we do - it must be not to ourselves but unto God. This Gentⁿ is a Man of scientific attainment, his illustrations were apt - and the whole argument very logical & scriptural - The day was very fine and hot - in short a summer's day.

Thursday 27th [July] The N. L. [North Lancashire] Agricultural Show was held in this Town near the Billinge School. - The attendance was great & the day fine £625 was taken at the Gate £64 at the Grand Stand, £23 Trial of Implements. In the Evening a Dinner was held at the Exchange £64 taken at the Grand - £200 Guarranteed [sic] to the Council by the Bⁿ. Public - Total £913.0.0

Monday 31st [July] Died Ald Hy Pemberton, very suddenly. He was present at the Dinner alluded to above. The death of this Gentⁿ was a subject of much discussion in the Town - From the Evidence at the Inquest it appeared he had been struck by Mr W^m Thompson at the old Bull Hotel and he never recovered the Shock - The Medical Men however concluded he had died from the effects of Drink and Jury entered a verdict of Delirium Tremens, a verdict much cavilled³ about in the circle of friends of the deceased Gentⁿ⁴

³ To object or find fault: *OED* 'cavil', v. 2.a.

⁴ The inquest was told that Thompson touched Pemberton's hat playfully with his cane as he left the dinner at the Old Bull. Pemberton objected, grabbed Thompson's cane then snapped it in half. In retaliation Thompson struck Pemberton in the mouth then pushed him to the ground. A doctor found Pemberton's shoulder had been dislocated but delirium tremens set in during the night after which Pemberton died. Although the police surgeon said that the shoulder injury accelerated death, all the medical men agreed the cause was the result of heavy drinking (*Lancaster Gazette*, 5 August 1871).

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The Overseer's List of votes for 1871-2 continued as under:-

St Mary's Ward, (Names)		672
St John's	D°	1733
Trinity	D°	1672
Park Ward	D°	2450
St Peter's	D°	1211
St Paul's	D°	<u>1744</u>
		<u>9482</u>
Witton	D°	
Livesey	D°	

Visiting Lytham with Mrs Tiplady on Wednesday the 2nd till Tuesday the 7th of August, and went also 4 times to Blackpool, where on Friday was a very fine Sea - It afterwards became calm & very hot - In fact the summer began on Saturday 5th of August. - Aug 10. Heat in the Sun 1 pm 116 Degrees.

Great Pic Nic Party of Lodge 269 to Browsholm Park the residence of E. Parker Esq. - Day very fine and hot.

Aug 11. Heat Sun 116, 1-40 pm Shade 74 Clouds none - Began Saturday the 6th Aug^t
[August] 12 Heat Sun 118, 1-30 pm Shade 79

On Sunday the same, closed a week of most brilliant harvest weather for which God be ever praised. - This Eving Rev W Stone took most affectionate Farewell of the Congregation at Trinity Church after a Pastorate of 2 1/2 years.

[August] 26th Died Thomas Dutton Esq my Landlord aged 51 years. He had principally resided in London for some being in a feeble state of Health. He was never married. The large property I presume will fall to his Nephew son of John Pickop Esq of Blackpool. Mr D was a strong Conservative, a JP and DL and he was one of the first Councillors for St John's Ward in the Election of 1851.

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28th Aug. A lamentable boiler explosion took place this Morning at the Works of Messrs Cotton & Slater by which the latter Gentleman lost his life - he was a very worthy & industrious Man and leaves a family to lament his loss.

Great Pit explosion at Arley Pit Wigan by which 70 persons lost their lives - and the Pit mouth was obliged to be walled up to put out the fires below.⁵

Tuesday the 5th [September] Fanny had a severe attack of Spasms, which made her very ill.

[September] 10th Sunday The Curate preached an admirable discourse on the Ten Lepers shewing the sinfulness of ingratitude to God's Mercies. In the Evening he preached at St Peter's - and was well appreciated "No Man liveth unto himself".

Died suddenly James Mitchell, Draper, Darwen Street.

Also Died Edward Whittle formerly the Secretary of the Weaver's Association. A good Mathematician.

[September] 12th To Ribchester with old Mr Thompson (Nutting). They were rather short but a fair crop.

[September] 16th Mrs Vose lost her purse £6.10.0

⁵ The explosion occurred on 6 September 1871 at Moss Pitts, Bryn Moss in Ince near Wigan. It was one of a number of explosions that had happened on the Wigan coal field recently. The engineers decided to shut up the pit before all the bodies had been retrieved (*Preston Chronicle*, 9 September 1871).

Sep 20th Died Mrs Sellers, an excellent Wife and Mother.

[September] 24th Sunday wet. Parish Church - Canon Birch If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear - The Rev Gent seems to mind to be under the Impression that there few righteous people in the world - This sermon was full of suspicious innuendos - He looks ever on the dark perhaps this is the natural effect of Age. I should have attended Rishton in the Afternoon but the weather & indisposition prevented me. - Evening Trinity Rev W. R Stephen If I wash thee not, thou has no part in me.

My Nieces Miss Beddoes & Miss A Callis on a visit. I am very sorry Fanny not so well to receive them.

Oct 7th Death of Daniel Thwaites Esq. Liquor Merchant aged never looked up after the death of his friend T. Dutton, Esq.

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Sept 28. Lodge Meeting about 36 persons present. Afterwards supper, a pleasant rational Evening was spent. Several recitations were given by Bramley, Thomas & Myself. Broke up at 11.

Oct 7th Soirée & Ball for the Widow & Orphan's Fund I O F. Mr Geo Ellis' Band attended. He also was here for a short time - On the following Morning (Sunday) he was seized with an Apoplectic Fit and died in the course of the same day - Mr Ellis was thus suddenly cut off from his earthly labours. - He was 54 years old and has been at the head of the Musical Profession, as an Instrumentalist for 25 years. Numerous testimonials had been presented to him by the various Bands which he had formed and taught most of them obtaining great celebrity and carrying away prizes at Contests held in Lancashire & Yorkshire - He was educated at the National School, and commenced his professional career under Mr Woomwell's Managerie [sic] Band. - He will be interred with Masonic and Musical honours on the 12th Inst. - Well may we pray, each rising day that we may be led into no sin, but perform our allotted in the fear of God.

[October] 10th This Morning I visited Manchester on business. A very beautiful fine day. Mr Benjⁿ Ellston Draper, a very old friend, died after a short illness of a few days of brain fever - He was also a Member of Lodge 345, and a Gentⁿ rightly esteemed in Blackburn.

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Election of Trinity Ward - Orderly & peaceable

H Shuttleworth 880

J Ingham 816

W. Edmundson 531

Alderman Dean, presiding Alderman. Cost £124 Conservatives

Nov 2 This day was interred Mrs Hart the relict of Mr W Hart, a Lady of most estimable character and one to whom, in my long sickness, I was under the deepest obligations. Nov 7. Visited Manchester, day fine

Nov 9th This Day Tho^s Bury Esq Top oth Coal Pits was unanimously elected Mayor of this Borough. He was formerly in business as a Pawnbroker, and retired with a Competency.⁶ He gave me Two Guineas for the Widow & Orphans Fund, M U. His father was for many years the surveyor of the Town. He attended church on the 12th but being at

⁶ Having sufficient income; easy circumstances: *OED* 'competency', n. 3.b.

Trinity I did not go. - The Sermons by Canon Bell were highly devotional and affectionate. Collection for the School was £

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Nov 26th Sunday, Attended the Parish Church in the Morning Sermon on the Kingship of Christ very eloquent - Preacher the Curate - When the service was ended the muffled Bell was tolled for the death of the venerable Sexton, Thomas Livesey aged 73, years 42 of which he spent in the laborious duties of his office - He was a Man universally respected, and one of the old Native residents of the Town.

[November] 30th Tho^s Livesey interred public Procession a very worthy man. Received the card as below a very old acquaintance, and at one time a strong Man.

Dec 1st Mrs Whittaker, relict of the late Dr Whittaker vicar of Blackburn died aged 71 years. She was the Daughter of the late Sir W^m. Feilden Bart.

[December] 2nd Parish Ch: very excellent Sermon on Xⁿ [Christian] Liberty by the Rev Mr Youard, Curate, Evening Stranger at Holy Trinity - was drosy. [drossy]⁷

[December] 5th Died Henry Stow, Butcher aged

[December] 6th Died Lieut Gen Sir James Scarlett, Bank House Burnley, aged 73, a fine specimen of the old English Gentⁿ He took part in the Crimean War, and commanded the heavy Cavalry Brigade - at Balaclava.⁸

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Nov & Dec 8th The Prince of Wales was seized about the 15 or 16th Day of Nov with Typhoid Fever and now lies dangerously ill at Sandringham. This day unfavourable Telegram was up at early Bulletin.

Very alarming symptoms on the 8th [December] - Queen & D of Edinburgh telegraphed for - faint hope of recovery.

Dec 10. Throughout the entire kingdom there is profound regret and deep sympathy felt for the Heir of the Throne the Prince of Wales, now lying upon a sick bed of Fever - The Bulletins are very alarming. The Royal family has been summoned and very slight hopes of recovery entertained. In all Churches & Chapels earnest prayers for his recovery were offered up and men & women of all ranks were most deeply affected - The Rev C H Wainwright preached at St Peter's a most eloquent discourse for the S & P. Schools and in opening the discourse very pointedly attended to the mournful subject. His text was "Receive ye the ingrafted word of God which is able to save your souls".

Dec 11th Died at Preston my venerable old Friend Mr Lawrence Clark, Stationer, in the 84th year of his Age - He was in business as a Bookseller for the long period of 55 years - attended Three Guilds - vide in 22, 42, and 62 and was looked upon by all Classes a worthy Tradesman, honest Citizen and devout Christian of the old School.

[December] 14th & 15 Bp of Manchester preached at Feniscowles (14) and at Holy Trinity (15) - Sermons were in the latter case Opening of the New Schools -

[December] 18th Great Fire at one of the Mills worked by Messrs Pilkington Bro. Damage £8000 or thereabouts. It happened at 3 o'clock when the Workpeople were all engaged but all happily escaped tho' many of the Young Women had their clothing burnt.

⁷ Figuratively, mixed with impurities: *OED* 'drossy', adj. 2.

⁸ Sir James Yorke Scarlett (1799-1871) had a long military career being gazetted in 1818 and retiring in 1870 as commander of the Aldershot camp. He was appointed to the command of the heavy brigade in the Crimean campaign in 1853. In 1835, he married Charlotte Anne, daughter and coheir of Colonel Hargreaves of Burnley (Henry Knollys, revised by James Falkner, 'Scarlett, Sir James Yorke (1799-1871), *ODNB*).

[December] 19th Essie's 21 Birthday, my youngest Child. God be praised that I and their mother have been spared to see them all up. She had a party of friends who spent a pleasant Night. All my children were there except whom God Preserve.

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Dec 30. A miserable day wet stormy and very dirty, moderate business done. -

[December] 31st Sunday at the Parish Church in the Morning very homely & practical Discourse by Canon Birch from these words Job 29 v. 18 "Then I said I shall die in my nest" Showing how Job thought himself secure from the reverses of fortune and how miserably he was deceived. The inference was not that should not lawfully desire to retain our comforts & possessions but that should forbear to put our all, trust & reliance on these things. I thought he might after all have shown that after all his afflictions God permitted to "Die in his Nest" surrounded by all the worldly comforts which could make a Man happy. - In the Afternoon visited Whalley Church. Evening at Home where thanking God for all the Mercies of the Year 1871 - my Wife & family fell peaceably asleep and rose refreshed for the Work of 1872. - The last day of the year was brilliantly fine - but not frosty.