

## 1872

Jan. 1 Children went to Atherstone & staid

[January] 3<sup>rd</sup> MacCarte was Worried to Death by five lions at Manders' Theatre, Bolton @ 10-30 in the presence of 500 persons.<sup>1</sup>

[January] 4<sup>th</sup> Mrs Tiplady fell down Stairs & severly [sic] bruised her shoulder & side - Bedfast for several days but is now recovering.

A fearful Week for rain &c.

[January] 7<sup>th</sup> At the Parish Church, a good practical Sermon by the vicar. "He that observeth the wind shall not sow, and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap". - The drift of the discourse was to show that under all circumstances of Life we should maintain a steady reliance on the mercy of God, and strict fidelity in his service.

[January] 26<sup>th</sup> Died, Henry Knowles an Apprentice of mine - a fine young lad rising 16 years, very likely for making a clever Man. He was cut down very suddenly.

[299]

[1872]

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> [January] Died Thomas Hindle Esq aged 50, self made man, in the cotton business.

Also on 3<sup>rd</sup> [February] Henry Hargreaves Esq Beardwood aged 82 Brother of the Ex Coroner and one of the oldest Legal Practitioners of Blackburn. He had been in an unhealthy state for a long time.

[February] 8<sup>th</sup> Viceroy of India Lord Mayo assassinated by Mahommedan convict at Port Blair.<sup>2</sup>

[February] 13 Shrove Tuesday Very fine - at Chatburn & Clitheroe with Mrs T. - paid G. Lofthouse his Bill -

[300]

[1872]

Sunday Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Parish Morning - the vicar on Satanic Agency.

Evening, Holy Trinity, an excellent Sermon by the Bishop of Manchester on the spiritual Warfare of the Christian - An overwhelming Congregation who were exceedingly attentive and devout. Collection - £28.

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Maccarte, aged 34, whose professional name was "Massarti, the Lion Tamer" was part of Mrs Manders' menagerie that formed part of the fair held in Bolton Market Square. Nine years earlier he had lost an arm when performing in a circus in Liverpool. In the view of a witness at the inquest, Maccarte was not drunk but had drunk enough to make him 'foolhardy'. (*Bolton Evening News*, 4 January 1872).

<sup>2</sup> Lord Mayo was assassinated at Port Blair, Andaman Islands by Shere Ali who had been convicted of murder in 1867 for which he was sentenced to be transported for life. The Andaman Islands is a remote archipelago in the Bay of Bengal which was used by the British as a prison colony (*Preston Herald*, 11 February 1872).

17, Leadenhall London, E.C.

21<sup>st</sup> February 1872

Dear Sir,

It is with deep regret that  
we have to inform you of the very  
sudden death of our late much respected  
representative. Mr. John Emmerson.  
we hope shortly to make arrangements  
with a gentleman to take the post  
which the deceased has for so many  
years ably filled

We remain, dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

Venables, Tyler & Son.

The above Gent<sup>n</sup> travelled nearly 30 years for Venables. He was with us on 14<sup>th</sup> of the Month and tho' he complained of illness it did [not] seem to us very serious. He was a Gentleman of great experience in the business and one for whom both my son & myself felt a great respect. He literally died in harness - but when we are in the path of upright duty it is better thus to go than linger on fit for nothing but mourn over decaying faculties.

[301]

[1872]

March 4<sup>th</sup> This has been a very important Week in my life. On the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb was the Great Day of Thanksgiving for the recovery of the Prince of Wales from a dangerous illness. The Freemasons of B<sup>n</sup> mustered well & went in Procession to the Parish Church 100 in number. Sermon by the vicar. "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesars, and unto God the things that are Gods -" The Sermon was a mixture religious & political discussion, arguing duty[?] of the Church in things essential and liberty in things optional. Afternoon to Darwen to settle upon Terms of Agreement between the Local Board & the Directors for the purchase of the Darwen Gas Company -. Thursday to Manchester to the P G Meeting to adopt a new Code of Bye Laws for the Province, a dreadfully wet day in fact a flood of Waters. - March continued with a heavy drizzling fog - Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> attended a special Meeting of the Board of Directors to the Local Board of Health & agreed upon Terms to be accepted & presented to the Gas Shareholders for the Sale of the Gas Company's Works & Plant. - In this business I have endeavoured to negotiate [sic] to the advantage of the Shareholders. It is now for them to accept or reject the mutual propositions of both parties - Heard the Bishop at St Thomas in the Evening.

My Daughter Fanny received a Letter from her Brother in America Stating that he was in good health, & had an addition of £100 to his Salary - for all these Mercies I wish to express thankfulness to God

The Weather throughout Feb<sup>y</sup> was exceedingly wet the 27<sup>th</sup> being the only full fair day. This was the Thanksgiving day.

March 11<sup>th</sup> Received Printed reports of the Bahia and San Francisco Railway containing of Reports to the Directors from my Son Richard, being very gratifying to us all -

March 3. Sunday at the Parish Church Sermons for the Schools - a good sermon from Canon Birch, Collection more than £50. The charity Children sang well. We printed for the occasion. The Evening Preacher was the Rev Edward J Whittaker a Son of the late vicar of B<sup>n</sup> one of my first & fastest friends.

[302]

1872

March, except about 6 days in the beginning has been a very variable Month for weather up to the 20<sup>th</sup> when a severe Storm of Snow and frost set in which continued more or less until the End of the Month

[March] 26<sup>th</sup> Died at Blackpool my much esteemed friend Nathaniel Walsh Esq. JP Over Darwen, and one of the Directors of the Gas Company. - Lord do teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto Wisdom. Mr W. was universally respected. He was one of a Sub Committee to meet the Board of Health, to treat for the sale of the Gas Works to them.

[March] 30<sup>th</sup> very fine after troublesome Weather. Had a glass of wine with my old friend John Procter, who reminded me of his Engagement with R H Hutchinson. They the said prosper him & his - 11 years ago - I hear that his oldest Daughter will shortly be married.

[March] 31 Easter Sunday - To Church Parish - The vicar preached from Revelations the last judgment. I thought he was too literal in his interpretations of Scripture - The Books were opened - but as this was purely a figure of Speech of St. John I presume he meant the Book of Conscience - The weather dismal all day. At Night to Tea with my Son where was surprised to find a New Portrait of myself, and also one of my Wife - The last one good but myself very melancholy looking & severe.

April 1 very Wet - 2<sup>nd</sup> Heavy fall of Snow and Winterly. Mr Disraeli in Manchester - Met by the Working Men of various Towns in Lancashire.<sup>3</sup> Mr John Carr robbed of £380 in

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<sup>3</sup> During his visit, from 1 to 4 April, Disraeli received addresses from deputations of Conservative and Constitutional Associations from Lancashire, addressed a meeting at the Free Trades Hall and received a

Manchester - at the Bank. In the [evening] the usual Tea party at St John's was held which was well attended.

[303]

[1872]

Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> On this day the Over Darwen Gas Company sold their concern to the Local Board of Health for 7½ per cent in perpetuity - The 8 shares receiving a Bonus of One Pound per share. Thus ends my long connection with this company, a loss to me of more than £20 per annum - having been a Member of the Board for 26 years. The Meeting was very fully attended, all the Directors being present, for particulars see the following page - About 60 were present.

[April] 11<sup>th</sup> Inquest at the Police Court over the body of a Young Man aged 22, killed at the side of the Railway at Brinscall. Verdict was accidental death. Was Foreman of the Jury.<sup>4</sup> In the evening went to Trinity vestry Meeting very angry discussion wardens, on the Vicar and spend of the Pew Charge about a £10:0:0 which ought to be paid by him for Ch: Expenses.<sup>5</sup>

[304]

[1872]

April 14<sup>th</sup> 1872 Sunday - a fine day - To the Parish Church, Sermon by Canon Birch on the earnestness of praise - Evening at Trinity - Rev W R. Stephens "What meanest thou, O Sleeper arise, & call upon thy God" from Jonah - a good discourse. - Remembered that it was the 8<sup>th</sup> year since my operation for the Stone and thanked God for his great Mercy - Sons & their Wives to Tea in the Afternoon

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deputation from the cotton operatives of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire (*Preston Chronicle*, 6 April 1872).

<sup>4</sup> Samuel John Walton, 32, worked as a fireman for London and North Western Company on the Blackburn and Chorley line. He died when a wagon, which he was assisting in shunting, turned over (*Preston Herald*, 13 April 1872).

<sup>5</sup> The meeting had to move from the church vestry to the schoolroom because of number of people attending, according to the *Blackburn Standard* mainly youths and women. The rancorous dispute centred on the accuracy of the minutes from the previous meeting (*Blackburn Standard*, 17 April 1872).

premium—wastages L&V and costs, the latter of which are expected to be considerably over £100.

### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OVER DARWEN GAS-LIGHT COMPANY.—SALE OF THE GASWORKS TO THE LOCAL BOARD.

On Monday afternoon, a special general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held in the large room of the British Queen Inn, for the purpose of considering the expediency of selling the gasworks to the Over Darwen Local Board of Health, and it so decided, of settling the terms upon which such sale shall be effected. There were present—R. Thompson, Esq., chairman of directors, who presided; Rev. P. Graham, Rev. C. Greenway; Dr. Irving, Dr. Aspinall; Messrs. Samuel Whalley, R. Duckworth (Blackburn), C. L. Tiplady (Blackburn), O. Townley, J. Dearden, J. Grime, J. Fish, C. Entwistle, J. Kay, C. Tiplady (Blackburn), J. Byron, G. Shorrocks, J. Walker (Brownsedge), I. Bertwistle, T. Varley, T. Holden, T. R. Parkinson, R. Townley, — Pickering, T. Mullineaux (Blackburn), G. P. Hartley (Blackburn), R. Howarth (Blackburn), John Rigby, M. Munroe, M. Grimshaw, J. Wilson, R. S. Ashton, T. Watson, T. Cooper, R. Hindle, M. Worsley, T. Duckworth, J. Sutcliffe, T. Grime, George Briggs, F. Alnsworth, H. Briggs, J. Harwood; and Mrs. P. Gregson, Mrs. Mary Whalley, and Mrs. J. Entwistle.

Mr. C. TIPLADY, in the absence of the Law Clerk (Mr. C. Kendall) read the notice convening the meeting.

Mr. MULLINEAUX said that as long as there had been an offer made by the Local Board for the purchase of the company's works it would have been better to have sent a circular to each shareholder stating the terms offered, so that time might have been given them to consider the offer. As a small shareholder he had only received a circular calling the meeting. He thought if the duty of the chairman, or some one under him, to have informed the shareholders of the terms offered.

The CHAIRMAN: I wonder where you have been living as you are in such ignorance. (Laughter.)

Mr. MULLINEAUX: I am in ignorance.

The CHAIRMAN: You know that this meeting was called here to-day and for what purpose.

Mr. MULLINEAUX: I know it was to part with this company's works to the Local Board, but I don't know upon what terms.

Mr. C. TIPLADY said that if Mr. Mullineaux had listened to the notice he read convening the meeting he would have learned that they had met "to consider the expediency of selling the gas works to the Over Darwen Local Board of Health, and if so decided, of settling the terms upon which such sale shall be effected." He did not know how the statement of Mr. Mullineaux could be reconciled with that. They could not lay down proposals before they were agreed to. As their venerable chairman could not read written documents very well he had been requested to read to them the terms the directors had after considerable discussion and deliberation proposed to the Board of Health. They instructed their cashier on the 27th February to write the following to the Local Board:—

Dear Sir,—I am instructed by the directors of this company to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, submitting an offer for the purchase of the gas works, and in reply to state that they cannot consent to accept it. To show, however, that they are still willing to treat with you, they request me to say that they will sell the gas works on the following terms, viz.:—7½ per cent. in perpetuity on £36,000 paid up capital, and 7½ per cent. in perpetuity on £3,200 C stock, one-half of which is paid up, the other half not to be paid by interest in such stock. The sum of £782 2s. 6d. to be given to the Local Board as a maintenance and reserve fund; and all other funds to belong to the Gas Company. The Local Board to be responsible for £8,050 borrowed money, and to take all assets and liabilities except such as are already stated. This offer is made subject to the approval of the shareholders, and if the members of your committee require a further explanation, the directors have appointed the Rev. P. Graham, Mr. Walsh, and Mr. Tiplady to confer with them. —I am, yours respectfully, A. M. NROOCH.

That was directed to Mr. Costaker, clerk to the Board. He (Mr. Tiplady) might state that the three gentlemen named waited upon the Local Board on the 2nd March, and they agreed to accept the offer of the directors.

The Rev. P. GRAHAM said that if any shareholder wished to ask any question bearing on the letter he had better do so, in order that information might be elicited.

Mr. MULLINEAUX asked if the market value in January for the £15 paid up shares was £22; and was he only entitled to 7½ per cent. on the £15 shares?

The Rev. P. GRAHAM said he was entitled to 7½ per cent., and to his share of £2,582, which was the amount of the balance to be divided among the shareholders *pro rata*.

Mr. MULLINEAUX: What will that amount to per share?

Rev. P. GRAHAM: A little over £3.

Mr. MULLINEAUX: Am I to take it that a £15 share will be called a £25 share?

Mr. C. TIPLADY said he had no recollection of £2,582 being the sum fixed upon in the negotiations.

The Rev. P. GRAHAM said it was; he had the figures quoted in his possession.

Mr. C. TIPLADY said it was that part of the letter which stated "all other funds" that had led to the misunderstanding.

The Rev. P. GRAHAM said he drew up the letter with the understanding that that was the arrangement. He wrote the letter and he ought to know what were the terms; Mr. Briggs, although it was signed by him, simply copied it. That was the understood arrangement. It was not a matter of the smallest importance, whether it was £2,582 or it was £20,000. It was not of the smallest matter to the shareholders now. It was for them to say whether they approved of this business—of 7½ per cent. on paid-up capital and 7½ per cent. on £3,200 C stock, one-half of which was paid up, and then to receive in equal proportion £2,582. He knew the Board would give that, but not one penny more.

A SHAREHOLDER: I was present at the annual meeting, and that was the sum named.

Rev. P. GRAHAM: Yes, it was.

Mr. C. TIPLADY: It should be understood that C stock does not participate in this dividend.

Mr. MULLINEAUX: I shall go away with the idea that I am entitled to it.

Rev. P. GRAHAM: Are yours A, B, or C shares?

Mr. MULLINEAUX: They are £15 paid up shares.

Rev. P. GRAHAM: Then you will be entitled to the dividend.

Mr. MULLINEAUX: I go away with that impression.

The Rev. P. GRAHAM said the holders of C shares had only paid £1, and they would receive an equivalent to 15 per cent. upon it. Their pockets had scarcely had time to cool since they paid the money. It was only paid in January.

Mr. C. TIPLADY then read the resolution proposed, which was as follows:—"That the offer of the Local Board of Health of Over Darwen to purchase this concern on the terms set forth and appended hereto by them to the Gas Company be accepted by the shareholders, and that the directors are hereby empowered to carry out this resolution, and that the balance in hand of £2,582 be divided *pro rata* among the shareholders of the paid-up capital, namely, the original A and B shares."

The proposition, on being put to the vote, was carried unanimously.

Mr. JOHN WALKER moved a vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding, and the proposition having been seconded by Mr. MULLINEAUX, it was put and agreed to.

Mr. MULLINEAUX moved a vote of thanks to the directors for their past services, and it was seconded by Mr. R. HOWARTH.

The Rev. P. GRAHAM acknowledged the compliment on behalf of himself and colleagues. They had taken great pleasure in working that concern for their advantage. He was a large shareholder, and he believed that in parting with their property, as he was parting with his own, they were making a good bargain; and he hoped that when they came to receive their 7½ per cent. every half-year as it came round, they would be equally satisfied. (Hear, hear.)

The proceedings then terminated.



Mr. MULLINEAUX: That is the way I do calculate it.  
Rev. P. GRAHAM: You may calculate it as you like, but the £15 shares will be called £15. Seven and a half per cent. will be paid on the £15 shares, and the £2,582 will be divided and paid in money to each shareholder according to the amount of his interest in the concern.

Mr. MULLINEAUX: Will that be more than £1 per share?  
Rev. P. GRAHAM: About £1 1s. 6d.

Mr. C. TIPLADY: It will be necessary for Mr. Mullineaux to understand that those holding C stock will not participate in this residue.

Rev. P. GRAHAM: The holders of C stock will receive 7½ per cent. on £3,200, of which they have only paid one-half. Mr. MULLINEAUX: It seems to me that the C shareholders are becoming entitled to £2 when there is only £1 paid.

The CHAIRMAN: But what have they in prospect?  
Rev. P. GRAHAM: The £15 shareholders have no prospect, but the C shareholders have; their capital is not all called up, and therefore entitled to more. We have studied to make every shareholder's interest in the stock as equal as possible.

Mr. MULLINEAUX: Can you give a guarantee that there will be £1 1s. 6d. per share?

The CHAIRMAN: Me give a guarantee? (Laughter.) Will you be my bondsman if I do? (Laughter.)

Mr. C. TIPLADY said the Local Board of Health had accepted the terms and he was sure they would not dream of making the Chairman responsible that these would be carried out. It was for the ratepayers of Darwen to do that. Mr. Graham would perhaps give some explanation about the £2,500 and odd pounds, as some shareholders seemed to think it should be a larger sum. If that were done it would no doubt be much to the satisfaction of many of the shareholders.

REV. P. GRAHAM believed, at least he hoped, there was not much dissatisfaction with what the directors had done, but there might be a certain amount of misunderstanding in the minds of some shareholders. A good deal of negotiation had taken place between the directors of the company and the members of the Local Board with reference to the purchase of the gas works. After a great deal of negotiation they had, as the latter read stated, agreed, subject to the approval of the shareholders, to accept 7½ per cent. on the called up capital. Some thought more money could be made by the shareholders than accepting this offer, by calling up C stock. That was quite a mistake, and anyone capable of reducing the matter to figures would very soon ascertain that. He could tell them in round numbers what the shareholders would actually receive if they approved of these terms. They would actually receive eight per cent. upon paid up capital. They would get 7½ per cent. in the first place upon capital, and the balance—as they understood, and which they, as directors, had treated in the calculation of £2,582 would be divided. If they took that £2,582 it would just make about one half per share and that about who thought they would make more by paying off the mortgage and calling up part of the C stock he wished to indicate them. If they would refer to the balance sheet they would see that the paid up capital was £26,000 on the 31st of December last. On the 31st of January £1,000 C stock was called up. They called that £3,200, so that when they added £3,200 to the £26,000 they got £29,200, and that at 7½ per cent. would produce an income to the shareholders of £2,190. Seven per cent. was the whole amount that company could pay by their Act, anything in the way of bonus, and they could not keep anything for a maintenance or reserve fund after paying 7 per cent. The moment they got 7 per cent. the ratepayers of Darwen had a right to come and demand that any increase beyond that sum should go towards a reduction in the price of gas. Take that £2,190 which was the amount of capital actually paid up, and at 7 per cent. they had an income of £2,604. Then there was borrowed capital to the amount of £3,050, and if they referred to the balance sheet they would see that a certain amount of capital was indebted to revenue—£3,149. Deduct the £1,000 paid share D-cember 31st, and that would reduce the capital owing to revenue to £1,149. Then add this sum to the £3,050 borrowed money and they got £3,599, the great amount required to be called up to pay off the borrowed money, and that balanced capital and revenue accounts. Now seven per cent. on this sum would produce an income of £251, and this added to the £2,604 would make £2,855; and if they deducted the £2,604 it left £251, which would only make the shareholders 3½ per cent. on £3,599, so that it was manifestly to their advantage to sell on the terms proposed. With regard to the value of their shares there was a good deal of misunderstanding. In the first place, there were a great many people who thought the shares had been worth £22 10s. Anyone who knew anything about having money knew that in a currency like that with a guarantee of all the rates in Darwen, and the rents of gas, they could not have better security in the whole world. With very security, he meant to say that the shares were well worth in the public market twenty-two years' purchase; in fact, the Local Board wished to have inserted in the agreement a clause that they might have the opportunity to take the company's works at twenty-two years' purchase. He considered it worth more—four, five, and he believed that gentlemen who had any experience in business would also consider it worth more. Supposing they took it at that, and then took £2,582, which was about £1 1s. 6d. a share, they might consider that the £15 shares were worth about £25; and he thought that was a very handsome sum for them to receive. (Hear, hear.) He thought it was a fair sum for the Local Board to pay, and he didn't believe the Board would be justified in making a larger offer. At the same time, he thought it the duty of the directors to do the best thing they could for the shareholders. (Hear, hear.) He knew that the Local Board would not give more than they had offered. It now remained for the shareholders to say whether they would accept it. He had told them that the shares at 22 years' purchase—and that was not a large amount to give them—would be worth in round numbers £26. He was quite prepared, and he dared say his colleagues were prepared, to answer any reasonable question that any shareholder might be disposed to ask; in fact, he would much rather that they did ask him, so that any misunderstanding that existed might be removed.

Mr. MULLINEAUX said he quite agreed with everything that Mr. Graham had said, and unless some larger shareholder than himself would propose that the terms be accepted, he would do so.

The Rev. C. GREENWAY said he would move that the offer of the directors be accepted.

Mr. MULLINEAUX seconded the motion with great pleasure.

Mr. R. DUCKWORTH said he should like to ask Mr. Graham one question, as there seemed to be some misunderstanding about the amount of money to be divided. Would he kindly explain how he arrived at the £2,582 to be divided?

The Rev. P. GRAHAM said that in the first place there was a balance available for dividend. If they would refer to the balance sheet they would find, "Balance available for dividend," £2,028 10s. 6½d. That, of course, they considered they had the power to deal with. They didn't know at the time they entered into negotiations how much would be required. They ascertained afterwards that £1,200 and odd would be required for dividend, leaving a balance of about £1,800, which they considered they were entitled to if they sold the concern. Then there was the maintenance and reserve fund. There was £1,100 in one and £164 10s. 1d. in the other; and if they took one-half of the two sums—the other half to be given to the Local Board)—and added it to the £1,800, they would get £2,582, the amount to be divided. The directors thought that the purchasers of a large concern like that were entitled to something as a guarantee and insurance, and therefore they divided the reserve fund equally between the Local Board and the shareholders.

Mr. C. TIPLADY thought that some other shareholder might have some different calculations to those of Mr. Graham; if so it would be better to have them.

Mr. R. DUCKWORTH said that Mr. Tiplady was right, as there were some shareholders who thought that the balance was larger. That might arise from the calls on the C shares and the £8,000 and odd pounds owing by capital account to revenue account.

Mr. C. TIPLADY: That has been reduced by the payment of £1,400.

Mr. R. DUCKWORTH took it that they had enriched the revenue account by that, and that as far as capital account was concerned the percentage would be upon a less amount in consequence.

The Rev. P. GRAHAM said that in the negotiations with the Local Board it was clearly understood that this £2,582 was the amount that would have to be divided among the shareholders; and it was the amount stipulated in every transaction they had had. If they departed from that they would break faith with the Local Board, and all the directors could then do would be to throw themselves on to the shareholders. It must be clearly understood that the £2,582 was the amount agreed upon to be divided in the event of a sale. If they did not sell they had no power to divide this money among the shareholders, and if they did not do it they would have within a short period to reduce the price of gas and here reliance is put on the revenue account, and they would have to call up C stock. In order to get capital and revenue accounts straight. This was the Act to pay more than 7 per cent.; they had no right to divide a bonus if they made 15 per cent.; they had no right to keep a maintenance or reserve fund. The directors could pay them, if they made it, 7 per cent.; if they made more it must go to the reduction of the price of gas. He didn't make the Act; he had nothing to do with it; if he had had he should be unwilling to consent to such a stipulation. Then, again, their owners would not be long before they would come in an end, and when they came they would have to apply to Parliament for a fresh Act. The Local Board would then have as much right to apply for one as they would. In that case there would be a large expenditure of money by the shareholders of that company and by the ratepayers; or the Board would try to purchase from them the works at more reasonable terms than they at present offered.

Mr. R. DUCKWORTH said that he came prepared to vote for the arrangement, but as there was some misapprehension in the minds of some of the shareholders, he thought it best to have it removed, and it was with this view that he had put the questions he had done.

Mr. W. COUNSELL said it seemed they were to give the Local Board £258 10s. 6½d. as a maintenance and reserve fund, and, according to the terms of the letter, all other funds had to belong to the Gas Company, and to be distributed among the shareholders. He would like to know what these "other funds" were, and if they were included in the £2,582, because it was supposed, taking the balance sheet as a guide, that there was a much larger sum than that to be divided.

The Rev. P. GRAHAM said that when the offer was made the auditors had not gone over the accounts, and they had to deal in a great measure with the balance sheet of the previous year. They arrived at the sum of £2,582, and that was the sum fixed upon, no matter what was in the letter. He must press for this sum to be adhered to, because he had taken a somewhat prominent part not only in the arrangement for the sale of this concern, but as chairman of the waterworks, the sale of which had been conferred and settled. He should feel as an individual that they would be breaking faith with the Local Board unless this sum of £2,582 was adhered to; and therefore he would call upon the shareholders, if they did not approve of that sum, to refuse the sale of the works for the present. He did not think it would be justified in discussing whether there was a larger amount.

In reply to Mr. G. P. Hartley, the Rev. P. GRAHAM said they were now treating with the Local Board for the sale of these works. The sum he had named was the one fixed upon, whether it be more or less. If the balance was more they would not get it.

Dr. FRYER said they seemed to be giving the Board £2,000, which might be added to the capital, and percentage received upon it.

The Rev. P. GRAHAM said it would have to be called up first before it could be placed to capital account, and then when placed to capital account there might be a per centage upon it; but they were not giving anything of the kind. Capital was owing to revenue so much money, and before they would do that they must set these accounts square.

[306]

[1872]

[April] 18<sup>th</sup> Present at the marriage of Miss Proctor daughter of my friend Mr Proctor - a very fine and beautiful sight - Christ Church Grimshaw Park.

[April] 24<sup>th</sup> Rather severe Thunder Storm. In the Evening at 10 my Daughter Fanny had a very severe spasmodic attack and was fearfully convulsed for two hours - I sent for Dr Dunbar, at about 11 and at 12 o'clock she fell quietly to rest for wh: God be thanked.

Verse on Funeral Card

Chippendale

Long time with sickness sore distressed

My soul in anguish cried

But now released in endless rest

By Christ my tears are dried

So loving friends farewell and be,

That you prepare to follow me.

[April] 25 All Saints' Church Consecrated by the Bishop of Manchester, who preached an excellent Sermon on the occasion. Collection £102.10.0 Luncheon in the School afterwards. -

[April] 27<sup>th</sup> Died Mr William Brooks, a very old & respected Tradesman of this Town aged 65.

May 18<sup>th</sup> Whit Saturday very stormy, also snow, rain & sleet on the Sunday but on Monday brilliantly fine - Many thousands left Town for Liverpool, Blackpool, Southport and all the Watering places - but not quite so many Schools -

Visited Preston on Whitmonday, the Procession was very large and beautifull [sic] - The R Catholics were arranged by different school and being uniform in dress presented a neat & [?] appearance they marched in twoes and it took 1 hour to pass in succession - The Church schools started at Two o'clock opposite the old Church and marched in fives occupying an hour & forty minutes. Both processions had an array of splendid banners, - and bands of Music. The day was magnificently fine - The Town exceedingly throng & busy, and the people very neat, clean, well dressed and happy looking.

[May] 24 Died Mrs W. Brooks relict of W Brooks Clothier - about a month after her husband.

[307]

[1872]

June 1<sup>st</sup> Visited Southport where my wife and eldest Daughter stayed on a mission[?] for a few days - Sunday Christ Church a very impressive Sermon by Mr Cross the Curate "God is love" Took a good view of S on the Monday, it is a surprisingly thriving place containing nearly 20000 inhabitants - having Churches, Chapels, Baths, Market House, Gas & Water Works, Observatory, Two Parks, Town Hall, Corporation, Hotels & about 700 detached Mansions and semi-detached dwellings.

Tuesday to Churchtown Strawberry Garden - very poor - Wednesday sail to Lytham - saw Nancy, Mrs Carter and other Friends - Weather on returning very wet - Thursday was invited to to [sic] Dinner to Mr R Entwistle's it being his birthday aged 52 - had Tea also and much Music. They behaved very well to us all - Fanny played and sung for them. I read & recited pieces for the Ladies - Friday Wife & I went down to Liverpool and I returned Home - On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> visited Liverpool & Birkenhead Park. The day was very fine - but generally since June came in we have had exceedingly heavy Rains and cold Atmosphere - but not frost.

Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> [June] Thunder in the many places and rain - also on the 10<sup>th</sup> very heavy rain throughout the whole day - 11<sup>th</sup> rather better weather.

[308]

[1872]

Memorandum June 8<sup>th</sup> 1872 Repaid the sum of Sixty Pounds to the Green Bank Lodge and Interest on the same which sum I took out of the Prince of Wales Building Society and I also repaid this day the sum of Thirty Pounds to the same Society which I borrowed in February at 5 per cent for the Transaction. I lodged with the Society five Certificates of the Original Gas Shares of Darwen.

[June] 14<sup>th</sup> The Inhabitants of the Town and vicinity were greatly shocked by the suicide of Miss Bullough the eldest Daughter of Adam Bullough Esq, Cotton Spinner, by cutting her throat dreadfully so as to cause instant death. Various rumours were afloat respecting the cause of the melancholy catastrophe but I cannot pretend to write down any thing definite.<sup>6</sup>

Went to Whalley in the Afternoon, and saw there on the Station the Rev R T Wheeler who is on a visit to Mr Ashe of Witton - Fanny had a bad night up to 2 o'clock when she fell asleep - Poor Fanny. - I would that I could devise any remedy for her - but we must submit -

[June] 22<sup>nd</sup> Grand Demonstration of the Church Sunday School, about 15,000 walked. Hugh Birley Esq addressed them in the Park. The day was moderately fine and the sight most beautiful - Are these Demonstrations calculated to enhance true piety - The Dissenters have partly given them up - but it is thought in consequence of being out numbered.

July 18<sup>th</sup> Foundation Stone of the New Library laid by Thomas Bury Esq Mayor. A Great Banquet in the Evening wh: I attended.

July 25<sup>th</sup> The Cattle Show held near the Cemetery. There was a Thunder Storm in the Morning which prevented many from attending. - I went in the Afternoon many Thousands visited the Ground and a better Show never took place. My Son Charles was the Secretary & William general Cashier - I dined with the Society in the Evening. Cash £482.0.0

Old George Holden, an old Churchman was crushed by an Omnibus falling upon him and died the following day.

[309]

[1872]

John Cotton, who died July 20, was interred with Masonic honours this day R<sup>d</sup> Ja Duckworth WN

This day 26 [July] Jane Lloyd our Servant was delivered of a child, tho' she bitterly denied it to the very last hour. I had a deal of domestic trouble thro' it. She was removed to Liverpool 31<sup>st</sup>

[July] 27<sup>th</sup> At Bamber Bridge, fine Day. Sermon in the evening by Rev R. Whittaker Splendid Discourse "Take that child and nurse it for me" Ex 2 11.<sup>7</sup> Collection £62.0.0

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> Dreadful accident on the L & Y Railway near Pendleton by which five persons were killed. The body of old Mr W<sup>m</sup> Johnson (79) was in the Horse Box, which was smashed to pieces - but the Coffin and body escaped injury.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Eleanor Bullough was aged 22. The inquest could find no reason for her suicide beyond possible religious mania or the effects of a disordered stomach. She had received a letter from her father on the morning of her death and a telegram from him telling her that her brother had been a successful candidate for admission to the Royal Military Academy (*Blackburn Standard*, 19 June 1872).

<sup>7</sup> 'Take this child away, and nurse it for me': Exodus 2:9.

<sup>8</sup> The accident occurred near Agecroft colliery when a coal train left the siding then ran into the Manchester to Blackburn express. The damage to the horsebox was mentioned in reports but not the identity of the body in the coffin. William Johnson, formerly a member of Blackburn Town Council, died in Wrexham on 30 September (*Manchester Evening News*, 5 August 1872; *Blackburn Standard*, 7 August 1872).



[August] 4<sup>th</sup> Rev A G Youard preached in the parish Church and made a suitable allusion to the Generosity of the Congregation on his recent illness.

[August] 6<sup>th</sup> Fanny's Birthday - Wrote to Son Richard - Three heavy Thunder Storms, this day - & much rain. It must be noted that this Summer has been very remarkable for the prevalence of Electricity. Frequent Thunder Storms from June until August & heavy Rains.

[August] 8<sup>th</sup> First Election (Municipal) under the Ballot resulting in the Election of Denis Towers 513 defeating Mr Higson 496 St Peter's Ward.<sup>9</sup>

Aug 2. Died James Holden aged 69 Years a very worthy humble Christian Man. He died happy.

[August] 18<sup>th</sup> Very hot Day. Went to Harwood Sermons the Reader of the Lessons I liked well.

[August] 19<sup>th</sup> Visited Buxton, where my Wife & Daughter were, stopped at no 5 Belmont Terrace. Buxton is greatly improved - both in the pleasures and good Buildings Erected. Visited Matlock, nothing particular except the scenery of the River which on one side is well planted with Timber and adorned with rocks. The height of Abram

[310]

are also, well worth notice, where are many good Building - 22<sup>nd</sup>. Went to Alton Towers moderately fine day until Afternoon when rain fell. This place is wonderfully beautiful whether as regards the princely Mansion of the Earl, the surrounding Grounds or the magnificent Gardens - In fact I never saw any equal to them, neither at Chatsworth nor at the Crystal palace.

Sep 13<sup>th</sup> Election at Preston return

Mr Holker (C)	4542
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German (L)	<u>3824</u>
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Majority	718
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This was the first Parliamentary Election in the county of Lancaster under the Ballot and caused immense interest in Lancashire and the neighbourhood - There was much rejoicing in Preston on the occasion.<sup>10</sup>

Mr James Spencer died in Manchester Sep 18<sup>th</sup> aged 38 Years - A young Man of whom it can be said possessing much ability he disappointed his friends by imprudent conduct.

[September] 18<sup>th</sup> Very heavy Gale at Blackpool and damage to the Promenade

[September] 21. Died W<sup>m</sup> Aspinall of Lower Darwen aged 63 son of "Billy at Bont" - A penurious Man - but not bad principled - He lost money by a foolish Law Suit.

Sep 30<sup>th</sup> & Oct 1. Received information from Bahia with £45 for William to apply Steam Power. Richard well but hard worked.

[311]

[1872]

Oct<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1872 Judge Willis, who unseated our old members committed suicide by shooting himself - His reputation stood high as a judge<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> The Ballot Act, which introduced the secret ballot for local and national elections, gained royal assent on 18 July 1872. The first parliamentary election under the Act was in Pontefract on 15 August 1872 but the first municipal election was in Boston, Lincolnshire on 22 July ('The Ballot Act 1872: voting in private', *The Gazette*, <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/all-notices/content/100726> [accessed 17 March 2021]; *Stamford Mercury*, 26 July 1872).

<sup>10</sup> According to the *Preston Chronicle* the victorious Conservatives were 'in a wonderful state of bliss' but election day lacked the 'most bitter personal, as well as political, antagonisms' (*Preston Chronicle*, 14 September 1872).

<sup>11</sup> James Shaw Willes, 58, was a judge on the Northern Circuit. He shot himself in the heart at his home near Otterspool, Hertfordshire. At the inquest, his doctor said he had diagnosed that the judge suffered from

[October] 9<sup>th</sup> Visited Southport. Prince & Princess Teck<sup>12</sup> laying the foundation Stone of Cambridge Hall Concourse of people was very great - Illumination beautiful especially some in Chapel Street - Train arrangements awfully bad scandalous delay - reached B<sup>n</sup> at 12-55 nearly 4 hours on the road - Saw few B<sup>n</sup> people - came home with Rich<sup>d</sup> Pemberton.

[October] 10<sup>th</sup> Richard Thompson 80 Years - 12<sup>th</sup> John Hargreaves Esq 89 years.

[October] 12<sup>th</sup> Died G. L Bliss aged 34 Years, James Caughey Esq late Councillor -

[312]

Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 1872 Died Christopher Parkinson Esq JP. aged 75 Years. A very excellent Townsman and worthy Christian. He was interred at St John's Church on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. A procession of Magistrates & Gen<sup>n</sup> attended the Funeral -

Same date also died James Leach Hawthorne aged 39 Years. He was the Grandson of Mr Hutchinson of Darwen and formerly held the situation of Manager to the Gas Co. there - His Marriage is stated to have been most unhappy. His Wife being a Woman of disorderly & unsteady habits.

[313]

[1872]

Nov 1. The first general Municipal Election took place under the Ballot, and resulted in the return of six Con & six Liberals. In St Mary's Ward no doubt some of the First voters were substantially sugared<sup>13</sup>

Wednesday Nov 6. Died aged 75 years Mrs Martland the respected Widow of Dr Martland, a very excellent and pious Lady - and universally respected -

Mr C. Greenwood Aged 51 on the 1 P.P.GM.

[November] 9<sup>th</sup> John Thompson Esq elected Mayor.

[November] 21<sup>st</sup> Prov. G. Lodge at Farnworth near Bolton., very large attendance - Dined in Church Schools - Dinner cooked at Bolton was much spoiled, - but the Brethren were very patient.

[November] 22<sup>nd</sup> Son William's Birthday (31) First application of Steam Power to our Machine Printing Also for the Almanack.

[November] 24 Sunday. Parish Church Morning - Canon Birch, Sermon on Despondency of David.

At Evening died Mr James Walkden, Printer and Bookseller - much respected aged 65 years. Interred at St Pauls

Died in Texas Mr Thomas Stones, eldest Son of the late Geo Stones aged 23 years.

Dec<sup>r</sup> 1872 H Hoyle Esq Clerk to the Borough Magistrates aged 59 Years. A Man who indulged much in ardent spirits -

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'suppressed or undeveloped gout' which affected his heart and then his brain. Witnesses gave evidence that he had become forgetful shortly before his suicide (*Herts Advertiser* 5 October 1872).

<sup>12</sup> Princess Mary Adelaide of Cambridge (1833-1897) was the third child of the seventh son of George III, Adolphus Frederick, duke of Cambridge. She married Prince Francis of Teck (1837-1900), son of the duke of Württemberg, in 1866. The princess was known for her benevolence and for opening schools, visiting orphanages and laying foundation stones (Frank Prochaska, 'Mary Adelaide, Princess [Princess Mary Adelaide of Cambridge], duchess of Teck, *ODNB*).

<sup>13</sup> A colloquial expression for 'cooking' or 'doctoring': *OED* 'sugar', v. 6.