Anthony and Margaret Hewitson now had a daughter Florence, aged three, and a son, Ethelbert, nine months old. Hewitson had been chief reporter of the Preston Guardian for a year, and was developing a freelance reporting sideline. He was 29 years old.

Explanation of contractions:
- o____of
- ol____of the
- ot____of that
- t____that
- yr ___your
- bn ___been
- wh____which
- &___and
- h ____have
January

Monday 1 January 1866 Up early and had a shower bath. Afterwards worked hard until after 10 o’clock at night. Work I was engaged on all day was a Town Council meeting. Long discussion about site of new Catholic church adjoining Fulwood. Catholics wanted it a little out of legal place. Several in favour of it; but objected to.2

Tuesday 2 January 1866 Writing out Town Council meeting; then to police court; then to Board of Guardians meeting where I had to help a fine duffer of a reporter from Preston Herald.3 Never wrote so much for Preston Guardian Supplement before in one week; it would be nearly eight columns. Got home at two o’clock in morning.

Wednesday 3 January 1866 Commenced after breakfast writing out Father Cobb’s* reply to the Vicar of Preston.4 Got a column done verbatim when I received word that I must condense my report.5 Did so and wasn’t sorry. Finished work at 20 minutes past 5 o’clock. Afterwards went to theatre with wife & saw the pantomime6 which pleased us well.

Thursday 4 January 1866 To Preston quarter sessions this forenoon & remained taking summaries of cases & idling away my time until half past five in evening. Thomas Batty Addison* was the chairman of the bench. He is a wonderfully acute intellectual, severe old man. Worked at home—writing &c until nearly 10 o’clock. Wife went off today.

Friday 5 January 1866 Again to sessions with a second reporter—Benj. Barton.7 We expected some rather heavy work. But the mountain was

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2 Church of St Thomas of Canterbury and the English Martyrs, Garstang Rd. The argument was over how near the church could be built to the road.
3 It was not unusual for reporters from rival papers to help each other.
4 Fr Cobb’s series of lectures in defence of the Roman Catholic church in December 1865 had prompted many replies from Protestant clergy, including the vicar Rev John Owen Parr,* who wrote a series of letters in the Conservative Preston Herald. In Fr Cobb’s fifth lecture he had replied to the Vicar.
5 A summary rather than a word-for-word transcription.
6 Harlequin Sir Rupert the Reckless; or Lurline, the Nymph of the Lurleyburg.
7 Benjamin Thomas Barton (1840–1896); by 1871 he had moved back to his native Blackburn and ran his own printing business, but returned to newspapers as Farnworth reporter of the Bolton Chronicle and then sub-editor and chairman of the Bolton Press Club, before opening a printing business in Farnworth. Involved in the Institute of Journalists. Author of a History of Bury and Neighbourhood, Historical Notes of Farnworth and Kearsley and Historical Gleanings of Bolton and District (obit, Bolton Evening News, 3 December 1896).
merely in labour & a ‘mouse’ was the result.\(^8\) Got home from office at one o’clock in morning, having done on the whole a great week’s work.

**Saturday 6 January 1866** To sessions again & reported an assault case upon a gamekeeper. A curious case. Only one witness sure that the prisoner was ‘the man’; whilst three said he was at home when the assault was committed. Prisoner got 6 months. To Holme\(^9\) (where wife and children were) at night. On arriving & after tea went to Commercial Inn & made three speeches [sic] at a Friendly Lodge Anniversary.\(^10\)

**Sunday 7 January 1866** Smoking, talking & reading & playing cards all day

**Monday 8 January 1866** Left Holme for home at 10 o’clock. Reached Preston at 12.20 nearly starved\(^*\) to death, the weather being very cold and stormy. Went up street & found that Robinson printer &c in Cannon St[reet] had been hunting after me to see what I would write out Father Cobb’s reply for.\(^12\) Told him—two guineas. Then went home, had dinner, a glass of beer & a smoke. Didn’t get reporting.\(^13\) To theatre at night.

**Tuesday 9 January 1866** To work at half past nine o’clock. Reporting ordinary cases all day.

**Wednesday 10 Jan 1866** Doing as much work for myself as for employer today.\(^14\) Sent off some horse fair tricks;\(^15\) this being great horse fair week.

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8 A reference to Aesop’s fable, ‘The Mountain in Labour’, a warning against making grand announcements that may come to nothing.
9 Near Kendal, where Margaret Hewitson’s parents, Joseph and Jane Wilson, lived.
10 The Sir Robert Peel Lodge of the Ancient Order of Foresters, one of many mutual aid societies set up by working-class men to support each other in times of sickness, unemployment and to cover burial costs. For a summary of Hewitson’s speech (possibly provided by him): ‘Holme—Lodge Anniversary’, *Lancaster Guardian*, 13 January 1866, p. 5.
11 James Robinson (b. 1830), printer, bookseller, house agent.
12 Robinson the printer probably wanted to publish a pamphlet from Hewitson’s report of Fr Cobb’s lecture.
13 The work for Robinson.
14 Hewitson often ‘moonlighted’ (freelanced outside his main job).
15 Two stories about confidence tricks at the fair, in Hewitson’s style, appeared in the *Scotsman* and Sheffield *Daily Telegraph* the next day; no doubt he sold the story elsewhere too.
Best fair for 30 years. Good horses sold well. Cart horses even sold from £35 to £60 odd.

**Thursday 11 Jan** Great meeting in Preston Corn Exchange (convened by [the] High Sheriff of County¹⁶) about cattle plague. Sir J P Kay-Shuttleworth,¹⁷ [the] Marquis of Hartington¹⁸ and several MPs present. Decent speaking. National Insurance approved of. Could not telegraph to *The Times* as all the wires had been blown down. Worked till one o’[cloc]k in morning

**Friday 12 January 1866** Writing out cattle plague meeting till 11 o’[cloc]k; then to police c[our]t; then up and down paragraph hunting. Got home at one o’[cloc]k in morning

**Saturday 13 January 1866** Sent a report o[f] cattle plague meeting to *Times* which did not get in. To Holme at night. Joined in a very convivial merry meeting at Commercial Inn.

**Sunday 14 January 1866** To church morning; to Burton in aft[ernoon] & had 2 glasses of ale; to church at Holme in evening. Good sermons. I sat in t[he] gallery.¹⁹

**Monday 15 January 1866** Brought my wife & two children (Florence & Ethelbert) home from Holme at noon. Lovely day. Writing municipal elections²⁰ in afternoon. In evening taking it easy. Particulars made known of a shocking murder near Lancaster—Elizabeth Nelson, on previous Thursday night.²¹


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¹⁶ William Preston (1806–1871) of Ellel Grange, Lancaster, former mayor of Liverpool.
¹⁷ See 10 August 1865.
¹⁸ See 14 July 1865.
¹⁹ According to Hewitson, ‘the better washed and more respectably dressed portion of the congregation’ sat in the gallery (*OCC*, p. 94).
²⁰ Fishwick ward by-election.
²¹ No one was ever convicted of the rape and murder of Elizabeth Nelson, a 31-year-old domestic servant.
Wednesday 17 January 1866 To police in morning. In afternoon to “Plumpton Brook”* with father-in-law.* Met an old Lancaster dissenter. Each of us had three glasses of ale. Talked about denominational matters quite eloquently all of us. In evening I & Father in law went to a Parliamentary Reform meeting at Blackburn.22 Big attendance; moderate speeches [sic].

Thursday 18 January 1866 Writing out last night’s meeting until 3 o’clock in afternoon. Then had a “round” for paragraphs. Got home in evening at six. Father in law* had gone. Worked hard—writing &c—until half past 10 at night.

Friday 19 January 1866 Working moderately all day. Got home at half past one o’clock. Had three beers during day.

Saturday 20 January 1866 Up street in morning, same in afternoon with wife & children. In evening went into a peep-show (camel, pony, dwarf &c) in Orchard. Afterwards had some beer & whiskey—rather too much—with father in law* at Plumpton Brook Inn.*

Sunday 21 January 1866 Ill in morning. Had a walk with child in afternoon. In evening should have gone to chapel but rain fell so stayed at home reading Fowler’s ‘Health & Disease’.23

Monday 22 January 1866 Writing out a queer rate case24 in forenoon; then to police court; then running about after news &c. In evening went up street with wife & father-in-law.* Bought a pair of white worsted gloves for 1/6d. Afterwards had two glasses of beer at Plumpton Brook.* Set father-in-law off by train to Lancaster at 9 o’clock. Then went home.

Tuesday 23 January 1866 Up at half past six; to Lancaster* (with Aspden*, Herald reporter) at 8; had breakfast with him at John

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22 The public meeting passed a resolution calling for the vote for working men, part of the movement which eventually led to the 1867 Reform Act. The speakers included Ernest King,* Hewitson’s friend and editor of the Blackburn Times.


24 A dispute over a special rate (tax) levied by Fulwood Local Board to cover the legal costs of a cheaper gas supply.
Wilson’s,\textsuperscript{25} brother-in-law; then went upon the Moor behind Lancaster. Had a fine view. Got back in an hour. To Lancaster Town Hall at 11. Reported a murder trial—a young man from Burrow Beck is charged with murdering a female named Nelson up there.\textsuperscript{26} Case remanded. Had beers with two relatives at X [Cross] Keys. Got to Preston at 11.20 & worked till 2 o’clock.

**Wednesday 24 January 1866** Easy day. Got tickets to go to a Cricketers Ball. Wife wanted to go; I didn’t; jawed about it; eventually decided to go to see a play at Theatre. Stayed there till ten; then came home and worked (writing out a speech) until 2 o’clock next morning.

**Thursday 25 January 1866** At work by half past six. Awfully sleepy when I got up. Attended Town Council meeting at 11. It was decided today to take proceedings against promoters of a new Catholic chapel, in Moor Park for commencing to build it in wrong place.\textsuperscript{27} In evening went with wife to a Baptist tea party. Speaking\textsuperscript{28} poor.

**Friday 26 January 1866** Ordinary work during day. In evening called at Plumpton Brook* & had a glass of beer. Had a ‘shindig’ when I got home for keeping wife up so long. She expected me at half past 9; didn’t arrive until 11. Worked until half past one in the morning. Bought History of Greece for 2d.

**Saturday 27 January 1866** Reporting & writing until six in the evening; then went into [the] Orchard with wife; then (out of curiosity) to a concert room in Friargate—George Inn. Heard some singular songs. On the whole proceedings orderly. Heard a woman sing who had had a child to a Catholic priest & who once came to our house & told for ever of lies[?]. Got home between 11 & 12. Got a hare given.\textsuperscript{29}

**Sunday 28 January 1866** Had a walk with wife & children in forenoon; in afternoon had a sleep; then a read.

\textsuperscript{25} John Wilson* (1834–1872), brother of Hewitson’s wife Margaret.
\textsuperscript{26} See 15 January 1866.
\textsuperscript{27} See 1 January 1866.
\textsuperscript{28} Speeches.
\textsuperscript{29} Landlord Edward Blackoe opened his concert room in 1864, offering a ‘music hall’ style of entertainment. The Hewitsons were slumming.
Monday 29 January 1866  To work rather late, but missed nothing. In afternoon writing for The Universe.\(^{30}\) In [the] evening doing nothing in particular.

Tuesday 30 January 1866  An ordinary day—nothing very fr[е]sh. In evening went to report on lecture on Protestantism being founded on [the] Rock of Truth by Mr Harper Grand Master of the Orangemen of Great Britain.\(^{31}\) He is somewhat of a firebrand.

Wednesday 31 January 1866  To police court; to the Court House—Cattle plague meeting. Miserably slow affair. Afterwards looked through the ‘domicile’ of a hermit named Wylie behind old Church. In evening prepared a copy of my account, to lithograph & wrote a special account for our own paper.\(^{32}\)

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\(^{30}\) The *Universe* (1860-) is a Roman Catholic newspaper still publishing today.

\(^{31}\) Edward Harper (1827?-1902), Grand Master of the Loyal Orange Institution of England and Wales.

\(^{32}\) James Wylie was being evicted from the warehouse in St John’s Place, where he lived (‘James Wylie again’, *PH*, 10 Feb 1866, p. 4).
February

**Thursday 1 February 1866** To annual general Sessions at 11 ½. Stupid proceedings. Magistrates ‘scratching’ each other about re-valuation of County. In evening to a dinner for officials of t[he] Preston Exhibition. Very comfortable affair. Over at midnight.

**Friday 2 February 1866** Writing out meeting last night. Worked hard all day. In evening h[a]d a row w[ith] ‘governor’ old Toulmin* as we call him. Got home at half past 1.

**Saturday 3 February 1866** Working hard — reporting all day. At night to two concert rooms. Poor affairs. Then to Hen & Chickens.³³

**Sunday 4 February 1866** Mending shower bath. Had a walk; then to Catholic chapel; then to Plumpton Brook* & had two glasses; then home & h[a]d another; then bed.

**Monday 5 February 1866** Began work at half past eight o’clock & continued until evening. Got tickets to go to a Ball at Corn Exchange. I didn’t care about it so gave my ticket to brother-in-law & my wife went w[ith] him & her sister.³⁴ To bed at 11. Awoke at 2 o’cl[ock] by brother-in-law’s child. Couldn’t get it quiet; so got into a temper & went to Corn Exchange for wife &c.

**Tuesday 6 February 1866** At work in decent time. To police court late; then to guardians meeting. Nothing new or of any consequence. Sent pars [paragraphs] off about a young man stealing £64 odd & another man named Smith who broke his neck while stealing hens. In evening I went to a Bible Society³⁵ meeting — big affair — in Corn Exchange. A Catholic ball night before; this night a meeting of the Protestant parsons in same room pitching into Catholics.

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³³ A pub. There were two of this name, one in Bridge St (now Marsh Lane) and one in Fox St.

³⁴ John Lord Rodgett* (1829–1878) and Margaret’s sister Sarah* (1841–1871). Their daughter Julia was born in 1874 (thanks to Margaret Dickinson for this information).

³⁵ British and Foreign Bible Society, a non-denominational charity aiming to make the Bible available throughout the world.
Wednesday 7 February 1866 Transcribing notes of last evening’s meeting. In evening went to what was called a ‘grand evening concert’ under distinguished patronage.\(^{36}\) Wretched attendance. Singing poor. Felt miserable; left the boxes, & had a smoke. At conclusion evacuated[?] home with wife in disgust at the ‘grand’ proceedings of the concert.

Thursday 8 February 1866 To Garstang at 1 o’clock. Attended meeting o[f] board of guardians; had a tenpenny dinner; then went to a cattle plague meeting at which it w[as] stated one farmer had lost by the plague 42 cows & other stock; & that 25 had been killed for food, in order to prevent spread of disease. Wrote meeting out at Eagle & Child, Garstang & got home about 7 o’clock.

Friday 9 February 1866 To office at nine o’clock. Afterwards to police court; then to Brunswick Mill (T Goodair’s\(^{37}\) w[hic]h w[as] partially destroyed by fire on previous night. Went in to the place. It w[as] fearfully wrecked in several places. Paragraphing in afternoon. Same in evening. Got home at half past one o’clock.

Saturday 10 February 1866 Writing paragraphs for The Times & other papers nearly the whole of the day. Very hard worked today.

Sunday 11 February 1866 Up at nine; had a shower bath, dressed, went out w[ith] wife for purpose o[f] going to chapel, but went to the cemetery to see grave of my two children. Rain fell all time. There’s as good a lesson to be derived from a Cemetery as from the best sermon ever preached.

Monday 12 February 1866 To a meeting of Propagation of Gospel society\(^{38}\) in Mechanics Institute at 11½ in forenoon. Meeting under the auspices of the Church o[f] England. A flat affair. Only about a dozen people present b[e]sid[e]s t[he] speakers. At night to a Volunteer Ball at Corn Exchange with wife. Couldn’t dance so I fuddled\(^{39}\) moderately.

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\(^{36}\) Patrons included the mayor and the town’s two MPs, and the singers included Edith Wynne (1842–1897) and Kate Wynne.

\(^{37}\) Thomas Goodair (c. 1833–1885), former councillor, son of John Goodair.*

\(^{38}\) The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, a Church of England missionary society.

\(^{39}\) Drank.
Ball a nice affair but as I coul’d do nothing didn’t care for it. Got home at 3 am.

**Tuesday 13 February 1866** Felt seedy this forenoon, but a shower bath, a basin of thick porridge & a pipe were beneficial. A long meeting of Board of Guardians. Throng all day. At night to meeting of Bible Society at Theatre, attended by Dissenters. Reported some good speeches.

**Wednesday 14 February 1866** At police court all day. A secretary & treasurer of a religious society tried & committed for trial of stealing £50 from St Ignatius’ Presbytery, Preston. In evening writing for myself.

**Thursday 15 February 1866** To Garstang at 11. At petty sessions three farmers were fined—two £5 each—for removing cattle along a highway without necessary magistrates’ licence. It afterwards transpired that plague was very bad at three farms in Winmarleigh. In evening I attended a Parliamentary Reform meeting in Corn Exchange, Preston.

**Friday 16 February 1866** Writing out reform meeting—noisy mediocre affair—until 5 o’clock in afternoon. In evening had two glasses of beer at Plumpton Brook.* Went to supper & had another. Got from work between 2 & 3 o’clock in the morning, well tired; having been up late every night this week.

**Saturday 17 February 1866** To police court at 11. Not much. At home writing out cattle plague pars for distant papers.

**Sunday 18 February 1866** Had a warm bath; then breakfast; then a walk with daughter Florence; then to dinner; then another walk with wife and one of children.

**Monday 19 February 1866** To police court in forenoon; then to a meeting of the Fleetwood, Preston & West Riding Railway Co—nothing

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40 Nonconformists, Protestants who rejected the Church of England, including Baptists and Congregationalists.
41 A presbytery is a priest’s house.
42 Movement of cattle was controlled to prevent the spread of rinderpest.
very particular except for latter where the extension of t[he] line into Yorkshire w[as] broached. In afternoon writing f[or] The Universe. In evening went to Theatre & heard some good singing. The theatre has been turned into a ‘grand concert hall’. Wife with me. Liked exceedingly well t[he] songs.

**Tuesday 20 February 1866** Ordinary work during day—paragraph hunting. At night reported a lecture about ‘The Church & Dissent’ by Dr Baylee o[f] Birkenhead.43 He is a clever man. Wrote out for next morning’s supplement a column & three quarters of meeting. Got from my work at 15 minutes to 3 in t[he] morning.

**Wednesday 21 February 1866** To Intermediate Sessions (late). Stayed all day. Saw Old Cobbett’s son,44 t[he] barrister & reported a speech of his. He does not speak very clearly. Fancy he takes snuff. Working until late at night. Was somewhat troubled with vaccination cuts. H[a]d the smallpox some years ago but last Saturday agreed to be vaccinated to induce the wife to undergo t[he] same thing, wh[ich] she did & made an awful noise about it. The ‘cuts’ scarcely took hold of me, not so w[ith] her.45

**Thursday 22 February 1866** To Town Council meeting at 11 o’[cloc]k. Proceedings nothing extra. A discussion about t[he] extension o[f]Longridge railway &c46

**Friday 23 February 1866** Working pretty hard at sessions all day. A man named Peter Dewhurst charged w[ith] stealing £50 from St Ignatius Catholic Church. He is employed there. He got off.

**Saturday 24 February 1866** Writing hard until night then h[a]d a walk up street with wife.

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43 Rev Dr. Joseph Baylee (1808–1883) was an Anglican theologian, fond of public controversies.

44 See 24 August 1865.

45 There are no pox marks visible in photographs of Hewitson. Vaccination against the feared and potentially fatal smallpox was made compulsory for children in 1853, so Margaret Hewitson was probably not vaccinated as a child. The disease was eventually eradicated by an international vaccination campaign, in 1977.

46 The six-and-a-half-mile branch line from Preston opened in 1840. By 1866 there were plans to extend it into Yorkshire.
Sunday 25 February 1866 Nursing for a while then to Cemetery with a brother-in-law. Got particulars of some gross negligence as to interring people in wrong graves. Had a glass of beer at Cemetery Hotel. Walk did me a power of good. At night went to St Wilfrid’s Catholic chapel & heard a good sermon condemnatory of evening drinking.

Monday 26 February 1866 At 11 o’clock went to a meeting of Fylde Water Works Company at Kirkham. Afterwards had dinner at Railway Hotel. During dinner got into conversations with a grey-headed ‘downy’ looking old cove who turned out to be Roberts the great Lancashire working mens’ lawyer. Returned at half past 3 o’clock. In evening to a meeting of the Church Pastoral Aid Society.

Tuesday 27 February 1866 To Board of Guardians meeting (pretty noisy) at 11 o’clock. In evening met W Guest second reporter of Manchester Examiner & Times. Had two or three beers with him. He got partially ‘screwed’. I maintained the ‘media in tutiformus ibis’ principle.

Wednesday 28 February 1866 This morning at 8 went to Lancaster to re-election of Lord Hartington on his appointment as Secretary of War. He was proposed (in Shire Hall) by Lieut. Col. Butler Bowden [sic], seconded by T B Addison* of Preston & supported by Sir J P Kay-Shuttleworth. Afterwards went to a banquet given by Lord Hartington in the Assembly Room. It was a fine affair; many got ‘mellow’. I was considerably jolly & got home easy.

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47 William Prowting Roberts (1806–1871) was a Chartist who became legal adviser for the Northumberland and Durham Miners’ Union and the Lancashire Miners’ Association, nicknamed the ‘miners’ attorney-general’. He lived in Manchester.

48 The Church Pastoral Aid Society funded Anglican clergy and staff in expanding urban areas.

49 Unidentified.

50 The Radical Manchester Examiner (1846–1894) was the political and commercial rival of the more Whiggish Manchester Guardian (1821–) for 40 years, and was out-selling the Guardian at this point.

51 Drunk.

52 ‘In medio tutissimus ibis’, from Ovid’s Metamorphoses, ‘you shall go safest in the middle way’.

53 John Butler Bowdon (1815–1878) of Pleasington Hall, Blackburn, Roman Catholic squire, magistrate, active in the volunteer artillery.

54 See 10 August 1865.
March

**Thursday 1 March 1866** Up at 8. Had a shower bath then a basin of thick porridge, then to work & continued writing out until nine at night.

**Friday 2 March 1866** To work at 9. Ordinary paragraphing all day. Got a beer w[ith] Aspden* & Barker (reporters) at Miss Nightingale’s in Lune St[ree]t. Home at one in morning.

**Saturday 3 March 1866** Up at 9. Had a shower bath (which I have every morning); then to police court where a cotton manufacturer & an agent were charged with conspiring to defraud a Liverpool person. Case ‘cooked’ & prisoners discharged.

**Sunday 4 March 1866** Seven or eight uncles and aunts called to see me. They were going to draw some money—left by their father. They went to father’s* at Lancaster at night.

**Monday 5 March 1866** Did nothing particular today


**Wednesday 7 March 1866** Writing out all day yesterday’s proceedings.

**Thursday 8 March 1866** To Lancaster assizes this morning. Took some case in Civil Court before Justice Lush. One case about some land

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55 Barker worked for the *Preston Chronicle* (see 25 Sept 1867). There was a Henry Hunt Barker, who was a Preston compositor in 1861 and by 1872 was a Blackburn correspondent for the *Preston Guardian* and later a partner with John Toulmin in publishing the *Examiner* group of Cheshire newspapers (announcement, *Warrington Examiner*, 5 February 1881).

56 Margaret Nightingale (b. 1819), landlady of the Angel Inn.

57 Captain Thomas Henry Clifton, formerly of the 1st Life Guards, the Eton-educated only son and heir of Colonel John Talbot Clifton, who was a second-generation Anglican in a previously Catholic family which owned many estates in the Fylde of West Lancashire (‘Festivities at Lytham’, *PH*, 10 March 1866, p. 3). Thomas Henry became Conservative MP for North Lancashire.

58 Sir Robert Lush (1807–1881), one of the three judges who tried the Tichborne claimant (*ODNB*).
on which a pig sty stood at Heysham lasted about four hours. Four barristers in case. This was a mountain in labour. Got home a little after eight.

**Friday 9 March 1866** Paragraphing. In evening bought a gold watch for 20 guineas from Peter Dickinson, watch maker in Friargate, Preston. Arranged to pay for it periodically. Thought it best to get a good watch whilst I was buying one. Intend leaving it to my son whose first birthday this was (Ethelbert).

**Saturday 10 March 1866** Had a ‘spree’ in afternoon with some relatives in commemoration of my son Ethelbert’s first birthday. Bless him.

**Sunday 11 March 1866** Being tired this morning, laid in bed till noon. In afternoon read, in evening kept up the birthday festivity.

**Monday 12 March 1866** To work in good time this morning. In evening went to report a lecture by Rev Marmaduke Miller of Darlington against union of Church and State. Good lecture. Some fools at the end made some stupid objections.

**Tuesday 13 March 1866** To police court & Board of Guardians—nothing particular. In evening to report a lecture by Rev T Davies of Over Darwen against Church & State union. Learned & elaborate lecture. Somewhat noisy the after proceedings.

**Wednesday 14 March 1866** Arranging last night’s lecture until 2 o’clock. Then went up street with some friends. Saw Frith’s great picture of The Railway Station. This picture has been purchased

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59 Meaning it came to very little (see 5 January 1866).
60 Peter Dickinson (1839–1888).
61 Rev Marmaduke Miller (d. 1889), a famous Methodist Free Church preacher and temperance campaigner.
62 Rev Thomas Davies (c. 1816–1892) of Duckworth St Congregational Chapel, Darwen.
for £16,000 guineas. In evening to Blackburn where I took a turn 64 at reporting a Liberation Society’s meeting. Got to meeting at 8.20; left at 8.55. Got home at 9.50.

**Thursday 15 March 1866** Paragraphing. Have forgot the rest

**Friday 16 March 1866** Paragraphing

**Saturday 17 March 1866** Paragraphing

**Sunday 18 March 1866** Had a long walk in afternoon.

**Monday 19 March 1866** Got measured for a new suit which cost me £2-2. To theatre with wife in evening. Saw Katherine --------, 65 wife of Henry VIII moderately impersonated by the L[iver]pool ‘Star Company’.

**Tuesday 20 March 1866** Paragraphing. In evening went to H Seed’s mill in Ribbleton Lane, a portion of which worth about £3000 had tumbled in, killed one man & nearly killed another. Father in law came tonight to get out of the way of a speakers warrant in connection with Lancaster election. 66

**Wednesday 21 March 1866** Fussing about all morning about Seed’s mill. In afternoon sent a para about it. In evening had some beer with father-in-law* &c.

**Thursday 22 March 1866** To Garstang* at 11. A beautiful day. Not much reporting at Board of Guardians meeting. Afterwards went to a Cattle plague meeting. In evening writing pars.

**Friday 23 March 1866** Paragraphing. At night h[a]d a glass of beer and a glass of brandy at t[he] expense of landlord of Plumpton Brook.* Got

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64 See 30 November 1865.
65 Presumably Hewitson had forgotten the second name of Katherine Howard.
66 Joseph Wilson* had been paid £10 (more than three weeks’ wages for Hewitson) by the Lancaster Liberals to hide from a Speaker’s warrant issued for a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into widespread corruption in the 1865 Lancaster election. He was searched for in Stirling and Ashton-under-Lyne, but not Preston, it seems (PH, 8 Sept 1866, p. 10).
particulars of Wigan* murderer (Grime of Chorley)\textsuperscript{67} & telegraphed it to six papers. Risked £2-8 for sake of 10/-\textsuperscript{68}

**Saturday 24 March 1866** Got up late to police court. Writing pars to send off to distant papers. In evening bought my gold watch guard. Then went with father in law* to Plumpton Brook & had sundry glasses & spent a pleasant evening.

**Sunday 25 March 1866** Nothing in forenoon. Had a walk in afternoon. In evening read Theodore Parker.\textsuperscript{69}

**Monday 26 March 1866** To police court in morning, nothing important. In afternoon had a walk with father in law* & brother-in-law (Rodgett*) to Penwortham Churchyard. Saw one old stone about 200 years old. Saw grave of M Whelan of Lanc[a]ster (once mayor &c of that place); no stone to mark it. Called at Bridge Inn & had a glass. In evening had a glass at Plumpton Brook.*

**Tuesday 27 March 1866** To police at 11—then to Guardian meeting—not much. In afternoon was fussing after par[agraph]s. In evening father in law* & brother in law\textsuperscript{70} came to me at my office. Went out with them; had two glasses & a philosophical discussion. Left inn at 2 i[n] morning.

**Wednesday 28 March 1866** To Parish Church at 11 in morning to report a sermon by Rev Canon Parr.* This was a sermon & a service to ask God to stay cattle plague. Sermon a god good one. Parr “pitched into” modern class finely. Saw some of common councillors (common sinners) there. They w[oul]d wince. In evening writing pars & conversing about phrenology which I believe in.

**Thursday 29 March 1866** Doing ordinary work. At night to a miserably attended meeting at Blackburn;\textsuperscript{71} object—to do away with a damnably

\textsuperscript{67} Firetender James Barton was murdered by being thrown into his own furnace at the Button colliery, Haigh near Wigan in January 1863. Thomas Grime of Chorley was now charged with his murder.

\textsuperscript{68} Presumably Hewitson spent two pounds and eight shillings in telegraph charges for an expected profit of ten shillings.

\textsuperscript{69} Theodore Parker (1810–1860), American Unitarian minister who campaigned for the abolition of slavery.

\textsuperscript{70} Rodgett.*

\textsuperscript{71} Former Chartist Ernest Jones was one of the speakers (PH, 31 March 1866).
mean court called Wapentake court\textsuperscript{72} wherein a man may have to pay 30/- or £2 costs for a debt of £2 2s; & to petition against increase of borough police; also in favour of a Stipendiary magistrate for the district.

**Friday 30 March 1866, Good Friday** A tolerably quiet day. Got through my work comfortably and had a beer at Noblets\textsuperscript{*} at night. Exchanged a key and seal for locket. Got home rather late. Ought to have s[ai]d that yesterday I reported annual general sessions & county magistrates. Lord Stanley\textsuperscript{73} in t[he] chair.

**Saturday 31 March 1866** Up town at 11. Exchanged a gold key & a seal for a gold stone-laid locket. Saw Bernard Bussey\textsuperscript{74} reporter on Morning Herald (London) in afternoon. Went to theatre at night with wife & saw him again. Did not feel well so left early.


\textsuperscript{73} Edward Henry Stanley, future 15\textsuperscript{th} Earl of Derby (1826–1893).

\textsuperscript{74} Bernard Bussey (d. 1908) was the son of George Moir Bussey (1807–1864), *Preston Chronicle* editor 1844–1846. Bernard was born in Kendal and was a reporter for the *Lancaster Guardian* in 1864 (notebook of Bernard Bussey, Lancashire Archives DDX 1211/3). He worked for the *Norwich Mercury*, then the *Morning Herald*, and finally the *Standard*. His brother, Harry Findlater Bussey, was *Preston Guardian* chief reporter c. 1857–1859 (*Scoop!* biographical dictionary of British and Irish journalists, https://www.scoop-database.com/).
April

Sunday 1 April 1866 Stayed in bed being ill, till noon. Afterwards had a walk with wife and children.

Monday 2 April 1866, Easter Monday To police court at 11. A farmer’s daughter and wife brought up for robbing stalls in Market place. They “seemed” respectable women. In afternoon to report proceedings in connection with cutting of first sod of Preston Infirmary by the Mayor (C R Jacson*) who made a long prosey speech. At night to a Missionary meeting. Bad attendance; speeches moderate. It was in Lune St Wesleyan Chapel

Tuesday 3 April 1866 To police & Board of Guardians. Doing ordinary work throughout day. Got home from work very late.

Wednesday 4 April 1866 To sessions before Thomas Batty Addison* at 10. Common cases which I took “easy”. At night to annual meeting of Lancashire Congregational Union in Cannon St Chapel. Enoch Mellor* of Liverpool made a good speech in defence of Congregational principles: & a good paper on Church music by Rev G W Conder of Manchester was read.

Thursday 5 April 1866 Writing out until afternoon at 4 o’clock. Then left office. At half past 7 went to another Congregational meeting in Grimshaw Street Chapel. Speeches & general proceedings poor. Dr Parker of Manchester made a poor speech.

Friday 6 April 1866 At half past 11 this forenoon to an influential meeting in Corn Exchange in connection with Manchester Diocesan Church Building Society. The Bishop was present & he made a good speech. He is a very rapid talker.

75 A symbolic digging of the first spadeful of earth, to mark the beginning of important building work.
76 Probably means selective reporting of the more noteworthy court cases.
77 See 7 August 1865.
79 See 10 October 1865.
80 The mayor and both Preston MPs attended, and plans were discussed to build St Saviour’s Church (opened 1868) and Emmanuel (1870).
Saturday 7 April 1866 At half past 4 in afternoon went with wife and children to my father’s* at Pointer Houses. At night went down street, Lancaster seemed a dull place.

Sunday 8 April 1866 In forenoon to Primitive Methodist Chapel with father. In afternoon went w[ith] him to Green Lane near Galgate where a young woman was lately murdered. A headstone about her and murder had just b[ee]n put up. Crowds of people going to place.

Monday 9 April 1866 Up at a quarter past 6 o’clock; breakfast at 7; got my grandfather’s watch (mother’s father’s—Thomas Moore’s—watch—he left it to me) & set off f[or] Preston af[terward]s. Arrived at a quarter past 8’o[cloc]k. Then got breakfast; wrote out part o[f] a report first; then up street; afterwards home. At night to a reform meeting at Blackburn. A full meeting. Home at 10.

Tuesday 10 April 1866 Writing out speeches of last night’s meeting main part of the day. At night h[a]d some beer. Home about five minutes after two in morning.

Wednesday 11 April 1866 To a meeting about appointment of a managing board of new Infirmary at 12 at noon. In evening to theatre. Saw a good play enacted. Many persons wept during its delineations. The parts were very pathetic. I couldn’t help doing a little in the crying line.

Thursday 12 April 1866 Nothing very special today. Hunting up pars. to send off at night & wrote some of them out at Plumpton Brook, it being too late to go home, write out and then go up street to post. Made up my mind today never to drink spirits except medicinally.

Friday 13 April 1866 Doing nothing extra all day. A good deal of runnnng about for pars. Had b[ee]n applying some “stuff” to two corns which became swollen & bothered me most damnably. Corns & toothache are Heaven’s own scourge for negligence.

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81 A group of houses in Scotforth, south of the town centre.
82 See 15 January.
83 Ernest King* spoke.
84 The melodrama East Lynne, adapted for the stage by J.R. Johnstone from Ellen Wood’s 1861 sensation novel.
Saturday 14 April 1866 Went to see wife & son Bertie at Holme in Westmorland this evening. Found them all right.

Sunday 15 April 1866 Rusticated\textsuperscript{85} today, Gathered watercress, played & existed, for once, on the free and easy [indecipherable]—innocently. Had a swing in the orchard. In evening to Lancaster.

Monday 16 April 1866 Up at six; to Preston with wife & Bertie at 7.15. Splendid morning. In afternoon went & paid for my watch & guard £26-7. Remained in house all evening. A new sub-editor (Mr Lawrence)\textsuperscript{86} came to our office—Guardian—today.

Tuesday 17 April 1866 Servant went to wedding of her sister at Fleetwood & sh[ould] have b[een] back by noon. Didn’t return till Friday evening\textsuperscript{87} & then we sent her away. Went to two ship launches at Marsh End at noon. One built o[f] steel. The other of iron—it is the largest ever built at Preston.\textsuperscript{88} Sh[ould] h[ave] got dinner at ship yard. Was forgot[?] & got £1 given instead.

Wednesday 18 April 1866 To a review or rather inspection at Fulwood barracks.\textsuperscript{89} In evening to a cottage owners\textsuperscript{90} meeting at w[ich] it w[as] determined to raise rents of cottages, owing to losses in bad times & improvement at present from 5 to 15 per cent. Affairs always equalise themselves. Got home about 10.

Thursday 19 April 1866 To Garstang to B[oard] of Guardians & cattle plague meeting. Missed 11 o’[clock] train so went shortly before one.

\textsuperscript{85} Spent time in the country.
\textsuperscript{86} R.A. Lawrence (1845?-99) replaced Thomas Wemyss Reid, who had left in January after 18 months on the *Preston Guardian* as editor and sub-editor of the *Guardian*: Stuart Johnson Reid, *Memoirs of Sir Wemyss Reid, 1842–1885* (London: Cassell, 1905). Lawrence began his journalistic career in his native North of Scotland, then went as reporter to the *Stockton and Hartlepool Mercury* in 1865, before arriving in Preston. In 1870 he went to Barnstaple as editor of the Conservative *North Devon Herald*, becoming sole owner of the paper a few years later (*North Devon Journal*, 14 Sept 1899, p. 5; *Daily Gazette*, Middlesbrough, 16 Oct 1899, p. 2).
\textsuperscript{87} This wording shows that Hewitson did not write his diary at the end of each day.
\textsuperscript{88} The Preston Iron Ship Building Company was launching a 185ft-long steel ship *the Jachta*, built for ‘the Pasha of Egypt’, and a 245ft-long iron paddle steamer, *The Taurus*, intended to carry cattle between London and Tonning in Denmark (‘Launch of Two Vessels in Preston’, *PC*, 21 April 1866, p. 6).
\textsuperscript{89} A half-yearly inspection of the troops currently stationed there.
\textsuperscript{90} Landlords of terraced working-class housing.
Walked 2 ½ miles in 25 minutes. Got half way on road in returning & then had to turn back for umbrella. Another person with me also forgot his. Umbrellas are nuisances.

**Friday 20 April 1866** Had an easy day of it. Had one glass of beer with an old friend—D Longworth. Had home at half past one in morning.

**Saturday 21 April 1866** Up about 10 & then to police court. In afternoon wife, Bertie & I had a sail on Ribble. Afterwards my father* came and said that Florey, my daughter, was ill with croup. Wife went to her at Lancaster. Father stayed all night with me.

**Sunday 22 April 1866** Sat talking with father all forenoon. In afternoon went to see the “oldest oddfellow in the world”—Geo[rge] Ward of Vauxhall Rd—buried. Thousands in the streets. Went to Madge’s and Eth’s grave.

**Monday 23 April 1866** To work moderately soon. At nine to Kirkham to report two or three cases wherein parties were summoned for non-payment of Church rates. They were ordered to pay; in default distress or a month’s imprisonment. Think of this in 1866! In afternoon to Lancaster to see how my little girl—Florence—was getting on. Found her moderate.

**Tuesday 24 April 1866** Paragraphing all day. At midnight Mr Toulmin,* my employer, came to me in my office & asked me to codge up a
leader, as his editor had neglected sending one! This was rather too much; but I dodged up one & thank God got through successfully [added in pencil:—It related to election of Mr J E Gorst* for (I think) Cambridge.

**Wednesday 25 April 1866** Had a nice out* in a carriage today to Great Eccleston, to two cattle meetings. Another reporter w[ith] me. All along—fields hedges trees—looked beautiful and the “feathery” tribe kept up a merry chorus all t[he] way. A few really good outs into t[he] country could bring one nearer to nature & to God. Got home at half past 8 at night.

**Thursday 26 April 1866** Writing until 11; then to further Council meeting; & report writing unti10 o’[cloc]k. Had a glass of beer [a]s I came from post office at Fox & Goose. Company moderate; but determined to go home after one glass, so firsted [sic] off & got comfortably to bed.

**Friday 27 April 1866** Writing out until 10. Then called upon Rev H J Martin (Minister of Cannon St[ree]t Independent Chapel for particulars o[f] a lecture he had b[ee]n delivering. Had a glass o[f] good sherry with him. Parsons all know what good wine is. Reform division tonight; Liberals won by 5 votes only.

**Saturday 28 April 1866** To Lancaster* this afternoon, after being alone at home all week, in order to see my wife and daughter Florence, who I found w[al]s coming nicely round.

**Sunday 29 April 1866** Sat in house all day. At night came home w[ith] wife and children. Got home—having travelled w[i]th a very stupid class of passengers—all right.

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97 Leading article or editorial opinion article, a prestigious task, giving the newspaper’s view on a current topic.

98 Preston-born John Eldon Gorst* (1835–1916) had been elected for the Conservatives in the Cambridge by-election.

99 Hewitson must have written his report of Rev Martyn’s* lecture from the minister’s notes, without attending the event.

100 The Liberal government narrowly won this part of the debate on the 1866 Reform Bill (designed to give the vote to some working-class men), but lost in June 1866, and it was a Conservative government who successfully took a new Reform Bill through Parliament in 1867.
Monday 30 April 1866 Had a walk out this afternoon into Avenham Park with wife & children. Didn’t do much work today. But I believe in labour—of some sort. People w[oul]d either go mad or go to t[he] devil if they did not work at something.
May

Tuesday 1 May 1866 Perambulating about for paragraphs.* Did not get from work until going to three in the morning.

Wednesday 2 May 1866 Up soon & at Walton le Dale at half past 10 to get particulars of the funeral of old Charles Swainson Esqr of Cooper Hill. There was a procession of scholars & inhabitants; then the hearse followed by three mourning & four private carriages. Procession accompanied cortege just over Ribble Bridge. Body to be interred in St Cuthbert’s churchyard, Lytham.

Thursday 3 May 1866 Doing next to nothing until about 3 o’clock in afternoon & then went with my employer (Geo Toulmin*) to Kirkham where I got particulars of a sale of furniture seized for Church rates. The auctioneer was nearly drunk. After sale a public meeting (interrupted by a number of girls & a band of music) was held in Market Place.

Friday 4 May 1866 Wrote between two & three columns of church rate sale, & meeting afterwards which was held in condemnation of religious persecution & in favour of conscientious freedom. Finished work at half past one & when I had got home had to return to office owing to a blunder on part of employer.

Saturday 5 May 1866 Nothing very particular in forenoon. In afternoon went up street with wife & children. Afterwards writing


102 The auction was of a clock, sofa, six kitchen chairs, one armchair and two barometers seized for non-payment of church rates from Richard Bilsborough of Bradkirk Hall (a Roman Catholic gentleman who owed £3 11d) and James Thompson (a Nonconformist who owed 7½d.) Part of the crowd supported the vicar, others backed the conscientious objectors. A protest meeting was advertised for after the auction, on a poster headed ‘That man has not got all his chairs at home’ (meaning that man—the vicar—is not quite right in the head). The local auctioneer had refused to do the vicar’s dirty work, so an out-of-towner was brought in, fortified with drink for the unpleasant task. Workers were locked inside one local mill to prevent them from disrupting the sale. Everything except the sofa was ‘bought in’ by supporters and loaded on a decorated cart, ‘conveyed away in triumph’ and given back to the two objectors. Then the protest meeting began, interrupted by the ‘uneartly howls’ of some mill girls and a fife and drum band sent by the vicar, playing ‘in a “bravado” sort of style’ (PC, 5 May 1866).
for distant papers particulars of supposed cattle plague attack & alleged remedy of it in Garstang district.

**Sunday 6 May 1866** This w[a]s an idle day—easy & comfortable rather.

**Monday 7 May 1866** To work at 11. Did nothing. In aft[ernoo]n had walk with wife & children in Avenham Park. At night to a presentation to Rev J Miller¹⁰³ incumbent of St Paul’s church. It was 11 o’[cloc]k before I c[oul]d get away. A pretty comfortable meeting, but speeches poor & old-womanly. Had a glass o[f] beer & then home to bed at 12.

**Tuesday 8 May 1866** Up shortly after six & commenced writing out meeting o[f] last night. Throng all day & just finished writing this at eight minutes past two in morning. Have therefore been up 20 hours. Will finish my pipe & sup my glass & then to bed. [x Good night. x]¹⁰⁴

**Wednesday 9 May 1866** Went round by Longridge,* Whittingham &c this afternoon w[ith] Mr W Heaps¹⁰⁵ cattle plague inspector to inquire into how t[he] disease w[a]s going on. Saw some animals w[it]h plague which for some time h[a]s b[ee]n scourging t[he] county. They looked miserable & pitable. Upwards of 100 y[ea]rs ago there w[a]s a plague amongst cattle & in one township—Haighton—we passed through it only left two.

**Thursday 10 May 1866** My brother-in-law, (J. L. Rodgett*) got appointed superintendent of loading and discharging of vessels at Preston Quay today. I knew all t[he] principal men & spoke to them for him. Had tooth ache all night, having got cold on Wed.

**Friday 11 May 1866** Knocked up through the tooth ache. Left work tonight an hour or so earlier through having tooth ache. Had a sweat & a purge¹⁰⁶ on reaching home. This is only the second time I have h[a]d to leave work through illness during t[he] past 9 years.

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¹⁰³ Rev. John Miller MA (d. 1896) was returning to work after recuperating with his wife in Hastings (PH, 12 May 1866, p. 11).
¹⁰⁴ The words ‘good night’ are written in Pitman shorthand, between two small exes.
¹⁰⁵ See 28 October 1865.
¹⁰⁶ Induced vomiting or use of laxatives.
**Saturday 12 May 1866** Face swollen up with tooth ache (which was eased) this morning. Stayed in bed till noon. Remained in house reading, sleeping &c—I felt exhausted—all day.

**Sunday 13 May 1866** In house until six in the evening. Then went to a friend’s with wife & stayed till eleven o’clock.

**Monday 14 May 1866** To office at 10. To a long meeting relative to mismanagement of Preston Cemetery—wrong interments, bad book-keeping &c—at 11 in Corn Exchange. Writing out till 10 at night. Then got supper & to bed.

**Tuesday 15 May 1866** Up at seven & had a bath. Writing very hard all day until mid night. Left work at 2 in morning.

**Wednesday 16 May 1866** To sessions at 11 o’clock & remained reporting cases until 5. At night went to hear a person styled ‘Parallax’ give a lecture in Institution Avenham to the effect that the moon is not the “cause of” the tides; that moon is self-luminous; that the earth is a plane; & that it would finally be destroyed by fire. He seemed honest & intelligent & ingenious. ①⑦

**Thursday 17 May 1866** At 9 this morning to Fleetwood to report particulars of a foundation stone laying of a Catholic church by Bishop Goss.* Day fine; air pure; proceedings impressive. Afterwards had dinner with Bishop and a number of priests. Got home by 3 o’clock train. Wrote at home all the evening.

**Friday 18 May 1866** Up at half past 7. Writing till half past 11. Then to Cemetery where an inquiry was going on before Mr Holland governor inspector as to irregularities in interments & the finances of Burial Board. There appeared to have been gross carelessness but evidence not very conclusive. ①⑩

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①⑧ St Mary’s, a Gothic church designed by Edward Welby Pugin.

①⑨ Dr Philip H. Holland, the Home Office burial inspector.

①⑩ Hewitson asked a question at the meeting about the numbering of his children’s grave being changed to correct a mistake: *PH*, 19 May 1866, p. 5.
Saturday 19 May 1866 Nothing particular today.

Sunday 20 May 1866 To Cannon Street Independent Chapel this morning with my little daughter Florence & the servant whom we got out of the workhouse. Good sermon; child uneasy. Children should never be taken to a place of worship whilst very young.

Monday 21 May 1866, Whit Monday Preston remarkably throng today & a good deal of drunken people—men & women—could be seen. Splendid processions of school & guild111 children. I attended to the guilds (Catholic) & reported Bishop Goss* who laid the foundation stone of the new Catholic Church of the English Martyrs in Moor Park.

Tuesday 22 May 1866 Paragraphing & hunting after Whitsuntide news. Got home from work at 2 o’clock in the morning. My wife was assaulted today by a scoundrel of a woman called Mary McGraw whom I determined to summons before the magistrates.

Wednesday 23 May 1866 Went with father and mother-in-law* to police court & remained for about three hours hearing crown’s cases. At night went through the Orchard which was very throng with Whitsuntide merriment. Went into a twopenny circus. Afterwards father in law & I had some beer & got home late.

Thursday 24 May 1866 Had a very easy day of it today. Went to a friend’s house at night to supper & got some bad ham & muddy beer which didn’t agree with me. Today saw 10 dogs poisoned by prussic acid at the police station. They were stray animals.112

Friday 25 May 1866 Paragraphing. In evening went to railway station & learned that more people had started from, come to & passed through Preston this Whit week than in any previous year. Saw some excursionists in cattle trucks—carriages being all full.

111 Roman Catholic mutual aid association.
112 Magistrates had recently issued an order prohibiting dogs to ‘go at large’. The police had rounded up 222 dogs, 45 of which were claimed and 172 destroyed: PC, 30 May 1866, p. 5.
Saturday 26 May 1866 Had Mrs McGraw before the magistrates this morning & got her bound over to keep the peace for six months for striking my wife. In afternoon I and wife went to a Band of Hope demonstration and saw upwards of 2,000 children &c walk in procession. Bands of Hope are the best things out.

Sunday 27 May 1866 Got into a temper this morning & accidentally set chimney on fire.

Monday 28 May 1866 To police court at 11. In evening to a lecture by a man who maintained the earth was a plane & not a globe. His arguments were exceedingly plausible.

Tuesday 29 May 1866 Paragraphing

Wednesday 30 May 1866 To another church rate sale at Kirkham. It is an abomination for people to have their goods seized & sold to pay a rate which they conscientiously object to. A popularity hunting parson named W Knox afterwards addressed the crowd on the anti-rate hook.

Thursday 31 May 1866 Attended a long town council meeting today. The scheme for the Miller Exhibition in connection with the Grammar School approved of to-day. Exhibition (£40) subscribed out of town’s money in lieu of a piece of land (Miller Park) given by late T Miller.

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113 See 22 May.
115 Meeting or procession, not necessarily a protest.
116 See 16 May. ‘Parallax’ was returning to repeat his three lectures, admission sixpence, reserved seats one shilling (advert, PH, 26 May, p. 1).
118 Scholarship or award to cover fees.
1866

June

Friday 1 June 1866 Nothing very particular today. Got home from work at half past two o’clock in the morning.

Saturday 2 June 1866 Up town at 11, to police court. Heard a man give another man a character. He said that he was honest sober but deaf & consequently fond of singing birds & butterflies!! Had a glass of beer. At night had two.

Sunday 3 June 1866 To Fernyhalgh. A very pleasant place. Wife with me. Saw Lady-well—a Catholic dipping place.

Monday 4 June 1866 Spent two hours in trying to solder bottom of a shower bath—didn’t succeed. In afternoon had an interview with Mayor (C R Jacson*) about cattle plague. In evening to Penwortham. It was club day. A regular country fair mixed up much devilment. Why can’t people be virtuous?

Tuesday 5 June 1866 To Board of Guardians meeting. Not much except twaddle. Missed attending a meeting for transfer of Fleetwood, Preston & West Riding Railway. Up & down paragraphing in afternoon. Saw John Noblet* who treated me with a glass of bitter beer. But I lost no time with it. Got home at 1.30 in morning.

Wednesday 6 June 1866 To a meeting of Burial Board at 10, relative to mismanagement of Cemetery. Not get admitted. Went to aforementioned meeting at night similar result. Afterwards came home & had a social party with seven friends & relatives who stayed until after midnight.

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119 As in giving a character reference.
120 The ancient Roman Catholic shrine of Ladyewell, four miles north of Preston.
121 A private meeting; interviewing was not yet established as a respectable journalistic method.
122 In North West England, ‘club day’ is the name for an annual village fete or gala founded by local friendly societies (clubs).
123 The Fleetwood, Preston & West Riding Railway was sold to the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway company.
124 To treat was to buy someone else a drink.

Friday 8 June 1866 A good deal o[f] knocking about for very little news. Got home from work at 3 in t[he] morning.

Saturday 9 June 1866 To police c[ourt] at half p[a]st 11 & reported an important fishery case. Afterwards writing out news of inquiry.

Sunday 10 June 1866 Did t[he] domestic—washed children &c—while wife & servant went to Chapel. In after[noon] h[a]d a walk. In evening two friends called, got tea & h[a]d a game at cards. Afterwards three friends called & all h[a]d supper. To bed at one.

Monday 11 June 1866 Writing out a fishing case till noon; then writing f[or] self. At half past six t[he] Rev H J Martyn* (Independent) called; & soon afterwards Mrs Sarah Rodgett* w[ith] a female who pleaded guilty to having been seduced by Mr Rodgett!* Afterwards I went to a terribly noisy meeting about Shelly Arms Burial Society. Got home at 10.

Tuesday 12 June 1866 To Board of Guardians shortly before 12. Found the duffers hard at it. Nothing much altogether. Tolerably hard day’s work. Home at 3 o’[clo]c[k].

Wednesday 13 June 1866 To a cattle plague com[mit]ee at 12 noon. Meeting at Court house. The Garstang magistrates, who sent in their resignations as committee men on 2nd inst in consequence o[f] CR Jacson* Esq intimating t[hat] they h[a]d not done their duty were

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125 Private John Hay of the 2nd battalion of the 21st Regiment of Foot pleaded guilty to firing his rifle in the parade ground whilst drunk, and wantonly wasting ammunition, value one penny: *PH*, 9 June 1866, p. 5.
126 Pimp.
127 Three fishermen were ordered to pay 10 shillings for illegally using a fixed net at Walton-le-Dale to catch salmon as they swam up the River Ribble.
somewhat pacified by a modification of his charge. Saw Tom Thumb, his wife & their child at night in Corn Exchange.¹²⁸

**Thursday 14 June 1866** At noon to a vestry meeting in Corn Exchange. The report about mismanagement of Cemetery submitted. A better system—appointment of proper auditors—agreed upon; also other things agreed to. Refused to go to a “party” at night—tired, disgusted &c.¹²⁹ Colonel Yolland inspected Preston railway station today.¹³⁰

**Friday 15 June 1866** Went to Grammar School “public day” at 11. The “Miller Exhibition” awarded (for the first time today) to T Spencer,¹³¹ son of Alderman L Spencer.¹³² Had a row with my employer this afternoon. All cooled down afterwards. Got home from work at 2 in the morning.

**Saturday 16 June 1866** To Garstang Churchtown at noon in a conveyance with reporter from Herald. Took wife & a friend—a female 13 stones weight—with us. A nice drive. Reported a church rate meeting. To theatre with wife at night & saw Walter Searle.¹³³

**Sunday 17 June 1866** Got up at 10 o’clock & as usual had a bath. In evening went to cemetery. Our Florence’s birthday (3 years old) today.

**Monday 18 June 1866** To police at 11. Cases unimportant. In afternoon writing out Saturday’s meeting. At night to an Infirmary meeting. A rather tame affair it was. Got home about 10. Had a party of little boys & girls today, at wife’s request, in celebration of our Florence’s 3rd birthday.

¹²⁸ These were the dwarfs Charles and Lavinia Stratton, marketed as ‘Tom Thumb and his wife’ by the American showman P.T Barnum. Stratton died a rich man at the age of 45.

¹²⁹ Was Hewitson upset by the cemetery mismanagement, which had affected his children’s grave?

¹³⁰ William Yolland (1810–1885) became a campaigning Board of Trade railway inspector after an army career spent mostly with the Ordnance Survey (ODNB).

¹³¹ Thomas Barton Spencer (1849–1906), who became vicar of St James’s Church, Preston.

¹³² Dr Lawrence Spencer (1811–1872), Conservative, ‘a heavy featured, deliciously rotund, energetic man … has the biggest umbrella in Preston; walks with an undulating gush, and is fond of L. Spencer M.D., &c; but has a warm heart’ (PTC).

¹³³ This was the opening night for a month-long season by Walter Searle (see 2 December 1865) and his company of actors.
Tuesday 19 June 1866 Up at half past 8 & had a shower bath. To Guardian meeting at half past 11. A good deal of rigmarole talked—also much stupid laughter by Mr W Howitt & malicious or sarcastic hits by R Ascroft.* In afternoon paragraphing. At midnight saw an old woman—probably an old scamp—who had gone to the police station lodgings.

Wednesday 20 June 1866 Saw a soldier named Fleet ‘drummed out’ of Fulwood Barracks this forenoon. In the evening to Theatre where ‘The Stranger’ & a farce were enacted. Enactment good.

Thursday 21 June 1866 At 11 to Garstang where I reported a meeting of 200 landowners & farmers who passed resolutions in favour of the Garstang magistrates who had resigned from the cattle plague committee & in favour of the inspector’s treatment. A very fine day—first summer day this year.

Friday 22 June 1866 Hot today. Considerable knocking about for news. Had a glass & two thirds at Plumpton Brook at night. Got from work at half past one.

Saturday 23 June 1866 To police court at noon. Did nothing. In afternoon writing parts to send off. At night had a walk with wife.

Sunday 24 June 1866 In afternoon to Longridge with wife & children. Nice out. In evening heard Father Harper at St Wilfrid’s Catholic Church. Afterwards had a game of cards with a Catholic party.

Monday 25 June 1866 To a trifling Sheriff’s Court enquiry at 11; then to police court—saw Bussey’s son; then home—writing. In evening walked with wife & Florey. At night to a tea party given in Temperance Hall to a number of blind & deaf & dumb children & [irm] grown people. Very interesting—pleasant & yet sad. Saw a woman who had cried herself blind!

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134 William Howitt (1811–1877), Lancaster-born surgeon, member of a Preston gentleman’s club, the Winckley Club. Poor Law Guardian since 1852.

135 Fleet, or perhaps Robert Lete (PH, 23 June 1866, p. 5), or Thomas Leat (PC, 23 June 1866, p. 5), a private in the 55th Regiment, for desertion.

136 See 11 June 1865.

137 This could be any of at least five reporters named Bussey.
Tuesday 26 June 1866 Paragraphing & writing out reports of last night’s meeting; also meeting of B[oard] of Guardians. Saw nor heard anything particular. Got home from work at half past one o’clock.

Wednesday 27 June 1866 Doing nothing particular in forenoon. Had two glasses of beer with our sub-editor. In afternoon put in a square of glass at home. At night went to Woodplumpton—to Thomas Waring’s farm—w[ith] W Heaps cattle plague inspector to get particulars for writing a letter. Left at 9,20; then went to Broughton & Goosnargh. Got home at one o’clock.

Thursday 28 June 1866 Writing a letter for Waring of Woodplumpton this forenoon. At 11 went to annual session of the county magistrates at Preston Court House. First rate (¾d in the pound) laid by magistrates to cover compensation for slaughtered animals on account of cattle plague. Working until nearly half past 8. Then to Theatre w[ith] wife & saw Miss Lydia Thompson as ‘Ixion’.

Friday 29 June 1866 Doing nothing very particular. Very hot day. In afternoon called at Dickinsons watch maker in Friargate & had 2 glasses of ale until a thunderstorm passed over. At night had a bottle of ‘pop’ & then a glass of brandy & a bottle of soda water given by Mr Noblett at Plumpton Brook.

Saturday 30 June 1866 Today Mr [blank] came for 11/- per wk & 12/- in winter.
July

**Sunday 1 July 1866** Went w[ith] my wife & Mr Dickinson & his wife\(^{145}\) to Stonyhurst College\(^{146}\) in a conveyance. Was well pleased. Afterwards drove round by Mytton, Whalley, Great Harwood & Blackburn.* Got to Pr[e]ston at 20 minutes past 9 & after having a glass of brandy at Mr Dickinsons sloped home.

**Monday 2 July 1866** An accident at Town Hall as I was coming up st[ree]et. The “cat head” slipped broke in centre.\(^{147}\) A mercy no one w[a]s hurt or killed. A good deal o[f] walking about today. Got particulars o[f] wreck o[f] t[he] Leveret in Ribble.\(^{148}\) Heard o[f] old Geo[rge] Helm a miser o[f] Fulwood h[a]d h[a]d 135 hens poisoned. At night writing out f(or) self.\(^{149}\)

**Tuesday 3 July 1866** Got to work at 20 min[ute]s after 9. Had a rose[?] given by a fearfully bigoted old Tory when I was coming to dinner. Thought about Toryism &c. At night had ¾ of a glass of beer & some brandy & soda water with John Noblet’s.* Got home at 1.40. Am now asleep.

**Wednesday 4 July 1866** Nothing o[f] any consequence today. Went to sessions & stayed all day. Saw old Cobbett’s son James.\(^{150}\) Had diarrhoea rather bad & felt ill. Cases of no consequence.

**Thursday 5 July 1866** Again to sessions & again to h[a]d diarrhoea. Stayed at t[he] sessions all day reporting. Got home in decent time & after taking a glass o[f] warm beer—the wrong thing I after[ward]s found out—went to bed & sweated extensively.

**Friday 6 July 1866** Paragraphing. Had diarrhoea bad at night. Took a draught o[f] a chemist’s mixture, h[a]d some chlorodyne lozenges & some sago & brandy. Af[terwar]ds better.

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\(^{145}\) Mary Ann Dickinson (1838–1894).

\(^{146}\) Leading Roman Catholic public school, in a striking landscaped setting.

\(^{147}\) A ‘cathead’ type of hoist broke during work on the new town hall, dropping a large stone (‘Accident at the New Town Hall’, *PC*, 7 July 1866, p. 6).

\(^{148}\) The schooner *Leveret*, carrying pipe clay from Teignmouth, hit a sandbank in the River Ribble (*PC* 7 July 1866, p. 6).

\(^{149}\) A short paragraph about Helm’s hens appeared in many newspapers across the country throughout the week, quite possibly originating from Hewitson.

\(^{150}\) See 23 August 1865.
Saturday 7 July 1866 Naught in forenoon. In t[he] evening reported proceedings in connect[io]n w[ith] presentat[io]n o[f] a sword to Lieutt Colonel Birchall at artillery depot.\textsuperscript{151}


Tuesday 10 July 1866 To work at 9. Paragraphing. Had a small row with my employer at night about going to Barrow on my own account. Told a lie. Regret it. Would not do it again. But he h[a]d no business to ask me where I w[a]s on a Sunday. Saw a woman at night in a very depraved & wicked state. Home at half past 2 o’[cloc]k.

Wednesday 11 July 1866 A young woman brought up at police c[our]t today for killing her infant by putting it down a petty.\textsuperscript{154} But she appeared to h[ave] got a good deal to drink and h[a]d evidently fallen asleep and let it fall o[ff] her knees into petty. Sad & damnable t[he]
effects of drink in excess. At night the coroner’s jury found her guilty of manslaughter. I went to theatre with wife at night. Poor playing.

**Thursday 12 July 1866** A shower bath at 8. To work at 9. Writing till half past 10. Afterwards to police court. Then—being sent for—went to Port Admiral Hotel & got some particulars of a contest (in Wales) between some Preston joiners and their masters. Joiners are on strike here. Had a glass & a half of ale with them. At night to a social party.

**Friday 13 July 1866** Didn’t get home with wife from party till 5 o’clock this morning. I didn’t go to bed, preferring rather to have no sleep than get into a sound slumber & then be wakened in an hour or two. Felt desperately “done up” till after dinner, then recovered a little. Got from work at 2 in morn.

**Saturday 14 July 1866** In afternoon to laying of corner stone of new infirmary by C R Jacson*, Mayor. Great procession of trades &c, fine demonstration*; perhaps 10,000 persons present. At night to theatre for a short time.

**Sunday 15 July 1866** Forenoon reading &c; in afternoon had a walk; at night to Cannon Street Independent Chapel with wife, having taken two seats there at 7/6 a quarter.

**Monday 16 July 1866** To police court at 11. Saw a woman who had been getting drunk & then put on a suit & clothes belonging to a navvy. In the afternoon writing out particulars of Saturday’s infirmary demonstration. Didn’t get finished till rather late.

**Tuesday 17 July 1866** Going after ordinary paragraphs today.

**Wednesday 18 July 1866** To a bazaar at Corn Exchange in aid of Catholic Church of English Martyrs on Moor Park. A fine affair. In evening, after finishing my work, went with wife to theatre & saw Charles Mathews in the comedy of Speculation. A burlesque after played by the company was a failure and ended wretchedly.

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155 Employers were trying to break a Preston building workers’ strike by bringing joiners from Wales; however, some Preston strikers had followed the ‘masters’ to Aberystwyth to stop them recruiting strike-breakers (*PH*, 14 July 1866, p. 5).

156 It was the custom to pay pew rent, to reserve seats in church.

157 Charles James Mathews (1803–1878) was a well-known comic actor, a former apprentice of the architect Augustus Charles Pugin. *A Game of Speculation* (1851) by
Thursday 19 July 1866 As soon as I got out of the house this morning at 9 o’clock heard that Preston Bank had stopped its payments; on going up the street found the report correct. Great excitement about it; Fishergate thronged; many long faces; liabilities said to be £1,500,000. The shareholders will have to meet liabilities as the bank is formed under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

Friday 20 July 1866 Excitement continues about the bank. All seems to be in a state of confusion; no one appears to know anything beyond the fact that the bank is stopped & the liabilities are great. Cause of stoppage said to be imprudent advances of the managing body to some cotton manufacturers. Home from work at 2 o’clock in the morning.

Saturday 21 July 1866 Fussed about getting particulars of Bank &c today; went to a meeting of shareholders at Bull Hotel but along with the other reporters had to leave as the proceedings were private. Afterwards learned that the meeting had been considering the advisableness of resuming operations at the bank. Was working till 11.30 at night.

Sunday 22 July 1866 Had a walk with my two children this forenoon, as I was too late for chapel.

Monday 23 July 1866 Paragraphing. Wrote a sarcastic critique to a catholic paper called The Universe about Rev. D F Chapman who had censured Bishop Goss (Catholic) for advocating Sunday recreations & pleasure. Sunday should be as good as other days and other days should be as good as Sunday.
Tuesday 24 July 1866 To police court; then to Board of Guardians. Hunting for pars—specially about Preston Bank—all day. Got from work late.

Wednesday 25 July 1866 To a bank meeting (Preston Bank) in afternoon. Shareholders at meeting. After some speeches from Chairman (Joseph Livesey*) & Robert Ascroft* meeting was adjourned till Friday. Sent pars off in the afternoon after helping to get out second edition.

Thursday 26 July 1866 Paragraphing. Easy day. Looking out for news to send to distant papers.

Friday 27 July 1866 To a great bank meeting (Preston Bank) at 3 o’clock at noon. Mr Joseph Livesey* in chair. Good attendance. It was decided unanimously to carry on the bank by making two calls of £50 a share & paying off creditors by instalments. Afterwards creditors agreed to this.

Saturday 28 July 1866 Writing pars in afternoon for distant papers. At night to a meeting—badly attended—for organising a Working Men’s Reform Association. Got really wet through on the road.

Sunday 29 July 1866 Reading in morning; in afternoon did nothing, at night had a walk with my father-in-law* then 2 glasses of beer with him.


Tuesday 31 July 1866 Wrote a column descriptive of excursion. To Board of Guardians meeting at 11.30. Long speech making about Preston Bank, cholera &c. Great catches of salmon in the Ribble yesterday & today. In two hours some men caught 84 salmon, one or two of which weighed 28 lbs. Got from work at 3 in morning.

160 The association’s aims—extension of the franchise, secret ballots, three-year Parliaments and more equal constituencies—show that Chartism’s influence lived on.
August

Wednesday 1 August 1866 Did nothing of moment today. My gold watch didn’t go so well; returned it (to be made right) to Dickinson the maker. Went to a ship launch in afternoon. Was too late but got all I wanted. In evening had a glass of beer with father-in-law.* Went to bed at 10.30.

Thursday 2 August 1866 To Garstang at 11 o’clock this forenoon. Attended petty sessions; then for a 1/5 dinner—very good—at Royal Oak; afterwards attended a cattle plague meeting at the same place. A petition to parliament against the compulsory slaughter of animals drawn up.

Friday 3 August 1866 Attended election of Joseph Gerrard as councillor of Christ Church ward & William Dobson* of the Chronicle for St George’s. The latter beat Richard Duckett auctioneer. Afterwards paragraphing. Got from work at 1.15 in the morning.

Saturday 4 August 1866 Up street at 11.30. Had a row with a man who had been insulting my wife. He was such a damn’d blackguard that I couldn’t make anything of him. Afterwards home & wrote three pars for The Times

Sunday 5 August 1866 Did nothing worth mentioning today (Sunday).

Monday 6 August 1866 Got a par about Bishop Goss confirming & visiting at St Augustine’s Catholic Church Preston yesterday. Wrote several pars in the afternoon.

Tuesday 7 August 1866 To Board of Guardians at 11.30. Paragraphing during day. Nothing very startling. Home from work at 1.30 in morning.

Wednesday 8 August 1866 A very easy day this. Had time to read & think a little.

161 Joseph Gerrard (b. 1833), pawnbroker and coal merchant, councillor and Poor Law Guardian, ‘a Liberal Conservative and a Churchman’ (PTC).
162 Richard Duckett (1817-86), a Roman Catholic.
Thursday 9 August 1866 Doing very little during earlier part of to-day. A man named Bradshaw living at No 1 Craggs Row Preston died of cholera—said to be Asiatic kind—this morning. At night to Preston Commercial Benefit Society dinner. Mayor, Canon Parr,* Hon FA Stanley* MP & JE Gorst* MP present.

Friday 10 August 1866 Writing out last night’s meeting. Sent Stanley’s speech to several papers. Paragraphing afterwards. Home at 1.39 in morning.

Saturday 11 August 1866 Up at 10. Called at station, then to police where I reported a long fishery case. J Paley summoned for illegal fishing. Writing out afterwards.

Sunday 12 August 1866 To St Wilfrid’s Catholic Church. Reported Bishop Goss’s* visitation sermon; very good & practical. Shall write it out.

Monday 13 August 1866 To Blackpool Pier Co’s meeting at 11 o’clock. It was agreed to extending the pier 100 yards. Got home at four o’clock. When train was returning got out at Poulton-le-Fylde & then went to Shard Bridge Regatta. A nice walk. Aspden* reporter with me. He was too late for the Blackpool meeting so I gave him it.

Tuesday 14 August 1866 Got up early & wrote out part of Goss’s* sermon. Tolerably hard day. In the evening met the Rev H J Martyn* minister of Cannon Street Chapel where I have taken two seats. He asked me why—said I had not been at Chapel for the two last Sundays & I replied that on previous day I went to hear Goss.

Wednesday 15 August 1866 To Lytham Regatta & sports this afternoon. Weather fine; could see the Welsh hills. Had a fine sail at the estuary of the Ribble in a steam boat. The regatta rather exciting; but

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164 A friendly (mutual aid) society.

165 John Paley (1829–1907) was the owner of three Preston cotton spinning factories.
arrangements were poor. Got home at half past 8 o’clock. Saw some funny itinerant players &c—poor devils—at Lytham.

**Thursday 16 August 1866** A very easy day. In the afternoon went to Lytham on my own hook to report the regatta as my employer woul[d] not send me on his. Cleared my expenses & made a few shillings additional. Very stormy at Lytham.

**Friday 17 August 1866** Went to cattle plague Committee. Meeting at the Court House at 11.30. Stayed with another reporter for about three hours & got nothing—glorious! The magistrates considered the subject in committee; then adjourned into open court. The roof of the place had given way a little & whilst I my colleague & another person were examining it above, the magistrates came into it, & when we came down they had gone.166

**Saturday 18 August 1866** Attended a bank meeting at 3 o’clock at the Bull Hotel. It was decided at the meeting for the bank to go on.

**Sunday 19 August 1866** Helping in domestic affairs in forenoon; in afternoon had a walk; at night to chapel.

**Monday 20 August 1866** Got some particulars about Bishop Goss* sermon (from Bernard Bussey*) at St Ignatius’s Church yesterday. Afterwards had a glass of beer with Bussey. Throng writing pars in the afternoon. Father-in-law* went to Ashton167 today.

**Tuesday 21 August 1866** The usual paragraphing today. Met John Dixon168 compositor on The Standard169 & Bernard Bussey*, parliamentary reporter on same paper, & had a familiar chat & two glasses of beer w[ith] them.170 Both seemed to have improved in respectability by going to London. Got from work at 1.30 in the morning.

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166 This was the Sessions Room next to Preston prison.
167 Ashton-under-Lyne, where his son Edward Wilson (b. 1834) lived.
168 John Dixon (b. 1829). This could be a Mr Dixon formerly of the Preston Herald who responded to the toast to the Press at a dinner in 1860 (PH, 29 September 1860, p. 7).
169 Conservative London daily newspaper.
170 These London journalists were probably sent to Preston to cover the re-opening of Preston Bank, which was reported in the Standard.
Wednesday 22 August 1866 To intermediate sessions at 1.43. Reported a considerable number of cases. None of them very much. Left shortly before six & posted some parcels for Manchester & L'[iver]pool. At 8 o’[cloc]k to a meeting in Corn Exchange at wh[ic]h speeches were made & a memorial adopted ag[ain]st t[he] granting o[f] additional spirit licences at t[he] forthcoming Brewster sessions.

Thursday 23 August 1866 Writing out last nights meeting—a column & a half. Sympathised w[ith] t[he] object o[f] meeting. There are plenty—too many—public houses in Preston. At 4 o’[cloc]k had two glasses of beer with Bussey* & Dixon. At 7 o’[cloc]k went w[ith] wife to a recognition tea party at Orchard (Free Church) place o[f] worship. J Guttridge h[as] come back. Excellent preacher.


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171 The parcels would contain reports of that morning’s juicier court cases.
172 A formal request.
173 Brewster sessions were the annual licensing sessions when magistrates granted or refused drink licenses to pubs.
174 Rev. John Guttridge (1819–1886), former president of the United Methodist Free Church, minister at churches in Chatham, Norwich, Macclesfield, Leeds, Salford, Heywood, Manchester and Preston, the latter twice, at Orchard Chapel, 1855–1859, and 1866–1868. A popular preacher and lecturer, his death was national news. An ‘energetic, impetuous, eloquent, earnest man … one of the smartest ministers in the body’ (OCC).
175 George Thomas Moir Bussey (1830–1892), son of George Moir Bussey (editor of Preston Chronicle 1844–1846); reporter on Preston Chronicle when father was editor, and afterwards; The Times parliamentary reporter in 1850s and 1860s (Scoop! biographical dictionary of British and Irish journalists, https://www.scoop-database.com/).
176 The first execution in Manchester since 1798. James Burrows, 18, had killed John Brennan, an Irish labourer who worked for his father at Heywood near Rochdale,
Sunday 26 August 1866 To chapel w[ith] servant this morning, sleeping & reading in aft[ernoo]n; in evening to Cemetery w[ith] wife to see our children’s grave.

Monday 27 August 1866 Considerable amount of work today. At night went w[ith] wife to a wretched panorama of Japan & China, followed by some splendid illusions representative of Faust. Had a beer in t[he] meantime. After t[he] entertainment came home w[ith] wife & wrote a little. The commission as to impurity of last Lancaster* election began today.178

Tuesday 28 August 1866 Fussing up & down for pars as usual. Had a beer at Plumpton Brook Inn* at night. Got done work in good time.

Wednesday 29 August 1866 Sent off two fatal railway accident pars, In evening rain fell heavily. At seven o’clock went to report Bishop Goss* (Roman Catholic) at St Joseph’s Ribbleton Lane, where he w[as]s holding a confirmation. A good speech. Left directly afterwards, by appointment, to my wife in a circus in t[he] Orchard. I paid half price; but t[he] performance w[as]s over in 20 minutes.

Thursday 30 August 1866 Attended a council meeting at 11 o’clock. Henry Seed,179 manufacturer in Ribbleton Lane, sent in his resignation for refusing to lend him money for drink. Burrows was hanged by the infamous executioner Calcraft at New Bailey prison, next to Salford station.

It was billed as ‘the most magnificent colossal panorama ever produced. To be followed by a new polymorama of THE GLORIOUS SHRINE, by M. Gompertz, exhibiting three distinct changes of light, accompanied by an organ and choir.’ Panoramas were part of the pre-history of cinema, involving a long, rolled canvas, painted with a vast continuous scene which was gradually passed before the audience, hand-cranked by men behind the scenes. This moving picture was usually accompanied by a lecturer and music: http://www.thecrankiefactory.com/115034662. Moses Gompertz (1812–1893) specialised in glorifying Britain’s invasions and colonisation of other nations: Biographical Dictionary of Panoramists of the English-Speaking World http://www.bdmuseum.org.uk/uploads/uploads/biographical_dictionary_of_panoramists2.pdf.

See 3 September. Hewitson’s father-in-law Joseph Wilson was ‘the most active man either in town or country on the Liberal side’, according to Clark, the Conservative agent (Morning Advertiser, 29 August 1866, p. 3). His ‘favourite method of proceeding was through the ladies, who received parcels of money and were told to keep them a little while before they handed them to their husbands.’ (Worcester Journal, 1 September 1866, p. 8). The inquiry was reported nationally.

Henry Seed (1821–1870); half of his mill had collapsed in March 1866, killing one worker.
today as councillor of Fishwick ward. Heard in the afternoon & got particulars of 3-4 county magisterial appointments. Received a newspaper & circular from John Hallam180 of Toronto, whom I had not heard from for 10 years.

**Friday 31 August 1866** To annual meeting of the Preston Banking Co at 11 at Bull Hotel. This was annual licensing day of public houses. Eleven new applications; all except one refused. Had a glass of beer with Peter Dickinson watch maker. Left work at 20 to 11 at night, having to be up & off to Kirkdale early next morning.

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180 John Hallam (1833–1900), friend; former mill worker of Chorley, Preston and Lancaster, where, ‘owing to his knowledge of books’, he met Hewitson before emigrating to Toronto in 1856 (PC, 23 October 1869; ‘Westward Ho!’ Ch. 17; PC, 3 May 1884, p. 6). Hallam became a wealthy wool and hide merchant, an alderman, and the founder of Canada’s first free public library. Hewitson’s second son, Horace Hallam, was probably named after him.
September

Saturday 1 September 1866 To Kirkdale by train at 7 this morning in to be in time for execution of Thomas Grime for the murder of an old man near Wigan about 3 years ago. He denied murder to his attendant a few hours before he was hanged. Grime came calmly upon the scaffold and after bolt was drawn by Calcraft he died almost instantly. This is the seventh man I have seen hanged. Sad sight.

Sunday 2 September 1866 A comfortable day,

Monday 3 September 1866 To police court in morning. In afternoon saw my father-in-law writing out. Father in law examined today before the election commission at Lancaster. It appeared from his statement—which was true as far as it went—that he had bribed a good deal, like all the rest at the last election.

Tuesday 4 September 1866 Saw a very stupid account in Manchester Examiner & Times of yesterday’s election commission at Lancaster. One person who was an ex-tailor was called an ex-traitor—scandalous [sic]. Got home earlier this morning than on any Wed morning since I went to Preston Guardian.

Wednesday 5 September 1866 Don’t think I did anything very special to-day. Writing pars to send off.

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181 See 23 March 1866.

182 Hewitson’s father-in-law Joseph Wilson told the Commission that ‘at the last election I did my best for the Liberal party, and was one of those employed to distribute the money.’ He was given £120 to bribe voters in two wards, paying individuals up to £15 each. The figures are rather high, but I couldn’t help it. They quite overpowered me; I never saw an election like it.’ Both Liberal MPs, Edward Fenwick (1812–1877) and Henry Schneider (1817–1887), lost their seats as a result of the corruption and Lancaster lost its right to return its own MPs from 1867 to 1885. ‘The deluge of corruption has been more universal and has reached a higher level of society than ever before’, the commissioners concluded, finding that the Liberals had spent £7,459, mainly in open bribes, and the Tories £7,070, more than £400,000 each in today’s money. Some 64 per cent of Lancaster’s voters either took or gave a bribe. However, historians argue that this corruption was not unusual and did not significantly influence the grateful voters: M. A. Manai, ‘Influence, Corruption and Electoral Behaviour in the Mid Nineteenth Century: A Case Study of Lancaster, 1847–1865,’ Northern History 29:1 (1993): 156, https://doi.org/10.1179/ nhi.1993.29.1.154.

183 The ex-tailor was Hewitson’s father-in-law, Joseph Wilson.
**Thursday 6 September 1866** To Leyland Floral & Horticultur [sic] Show at noon. Was told [that] this society was 40 y[ear]rs old. Michael Satterthwaite\(^{184}\) a Quaker walked on [the] highway from station to [the] village—2 miles—in 20 minutes, although he is 82 y[ear]s old. In evening saw a cross blessed.

**Friday 7 September 1866** In afternoon saw [the] cross & shaft—15 ft 4 inches in height—hoisted upon & fixed at [the] head o[f] [the] spire which from [the] vane to [the] base o[f] tower is 302 feet high. The job was a marvellous one. All w[al]s successful. By spire I mean [that] o[f] St Walburges!\(^{185}\)

**Saturday 8 September 1866** To Longridge* this afternoon to report proceedings connected w[ith] laying o[f] [the] foundation stone o[f] a new church o[f] England school in Berry Lane. Wife & Florey went w[ith] me. A nice out.* We h[a]d tea at Towneley Arms. Got home at 9.30 pm

**Sunday 9 September 1866** Writing out report of yesterday’s school proceedings. Then h[a]d a walk w[ith] wife & child & to Cannon Street chapel at night.

**Monday 10 September 1866** Up at 6. Went w[ith] wife & a number of Guardian compositors* &c to Whitewell. Fine day. Lovely out.* Saw Colonel Towneley’s racing stables & h[a]d a look at ‘King of Trumps’ & ‘Kettledrum’ t[he] winner of t[he] Derby &c, for which horse £5,000 h[a]s b[ee]n offered. Had dinner at Whitewell Inn; then a ramble upon t[he] hills. Home at 10. Tired; mellow.\(^{186}\)

**Tuesday 11 September 1866** To Guardian meeting this forenoon. A good deal of small joking & stupidity on foot. In afternoon & evening paragraphing. Got from work late—after 2 & then owing to children

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184 Michael Satterthwaite (1784–1867), who had been in business in Preston as a currier for more than 60 years. Educated at the Friends School, Ackworth, Yorkshire, he was a Poor Law Guardian and director of the Blackpool and Lytham Pier companies (obituary, *PC*, 13 July 1867, p. 4).

185 St Walburge’s RC church, opened 1854, has the tallest spire of any parish church in England.

186 Printers’ annual outings were called wayzgooses. Root Stud Farm, Dunsop Bridge in the Ribble valley north-east of Preston, was owned by Colonel Charles Towneley (1803–1876) of Towneley Hall, Burnley. Kettledrum won the Derby in 1861.
being cross c[oul]d not sleep well. Wedding is the thing for giving people an opportunity of being patient.

**Wednesday 12 September 1866** Man came to tune our old piano we bought f[o]r £2 about a month ago. To police court at 11. At evening to Croston to get some particulars about flood, owing to very wet weather. Landed in Croston at 10 minutes to 7 & returned at 10 minutes past by a train which only ran 8 miles in 40 minutes. Scandaliferous.\(^{187}\)

**Thursday 13 September 1866** To annual general sessions held at Preston Court House. A good deal of money voted to different county establishments. Wrote all out before going home. Worked at home till midnight.

**Friday 14 September 1866** To meeting o[f] Preston Waggon & Iron Company’s\(^{188}\) meeting this forenoon. Weather very stormy. Paragraphing in afternoon; at night h[a]d two glasses o[f] beer at intervals of 4 hours.

**Saturday 15 September 1866** To work at 11. In the afternoon a young woman named Aspden [sic] from Accrington, who got married in morning, w[a]s drowned in t[he] Ribble opposite end o[f] Bird St[ree]t. Three o[the]r persons upset at same time by a boat. Drink, imprudence & incapacity at t[he] bottom of it.\(^{189}\)

**Sunday 16 September 1866** Washed children in the forenoon; tried to play on our £2 piano in t[he] afternoon; then read part of Emerson’s Representative Men.\(^{190}\) At night with wife to St Walburge’s Catholic Church. Sermon (farewell) by Father Clare.\(^{191}\)

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187 Hewitson’s 20-minute visit produced three lines in a general round-up of storm damage.
189 Mary Ingham had married John Turner a few hours earlier (PH, 22 Sept 1866, p. 11). Her body was found two weeks later. William Hesketh, who rented the boat out, told the inquest that ‘the party seemed merry, but were not in the least drunk’ (PC, 6 Oct 1866, p. 11).
190 The book, published in 1850 by American thinker Ralph Waldo Emerson, looks at the role of great men in society, similar to Thomas Carlyle’s 1841 *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and The Heroic in History*. Hewitson was a great admirer of Carlyle (1795–1881), one of the most famous British historians, commentators and philosophers of the nineteenth century, known for his Germanic writing style and paternalistic high-Tory views.
191 Father James Clare (1826?-1902), rector of the seminary at Stonyhurst was moving to the Jesuits’ famous London church, Farm St in Wimbledon. He was admired for his preaching.
Monday 17 September 1866 Went in an excursion train with wife to Manchester this forenoon for 2/6 each. On getting to Manchester went on to see Edward Wilson* (brother in law) at Ashton. At night to Belle Vue Gardens & saw monkeys, birds, animals & splendid fireworks w[ith] a representation o[f] modern Rome.\textsuperscript{192} Home at 12. Some folk in same train h[a]d to go to Keswick & Carlisle—a blessed journey.

Tuesday 18 September 1866 Had a pretty easy day in paragraphing. Read a good lot [o]f proofs\textsuperscript{193} at night & got sleepy. Home from work at two o’clock in morning.

Wednesday 19 September 1866 Up out o[f] bed at half past 9; to meeting o[f] Croston Drainage Commissioners at 11. A marvellously unintelligible & uninteresting meeting except to local parties. Sir Thomas Hesketh* in chair. Sir Thomas is a very gentlemanly aristocratic sort o[f] duffer. Home at half past 2 in afternoon. Writing afterwards. Up street w[ith] wife at night a little.

Thursday 20 September 1866 Had an easy day today. Worked hard for myself. Had several pipes & two glasses of beer at night.

Friday 21 September 1866 Knocking about for pars. Four hours at an inquest tonight—a man named Vicars committed f[or] t[he] manslaughter of a man named McDonagh in Vickers St[ree]t. Got home from work at 1.30 in morning.\textsuperscript{194}

Saturday 22 September 1866 Had a good shower bath. To work at 11.30. Easy afternoon. Up street at night. Saw nothing particular.

Sunday 23 September 1866 Had a splendid wash this morning. To chapel w[ith] Florence & servant Sarah at 10.30. Moderately decent sermon. Had a sleep in afternoon. Then read Watson’s apology of the

\textsuperscript{192} The Victorian leisure complex of Belle Vue Zoological Gardens included restaurants, hotels, dancefloors, boating lakes and a ‘firework island’ on which firework displays were staged, and attracted millions of visitors from across Northern England.

\textsuperscript{193} A preliminary printed version of a column or article, provided after typesetting and before printing proper, to allow checking and corrections.

\textsuperscript{194} John Vicars was committed for trial for the manslaughter of Thomas M’Donough (PH, 22 Sept, p. 5).
Bible & part of Emerson’s Representative Men. At night had a walk with wife.

**Monday 24 September 1866** Had a moderately easy day. Attended police court in forenoon. In afternoon writing paras.

**Tuesday 25 September 1866** Paragraphing. At night looked in at theatre to see Christy’s minstrels. Very good. Large & fashionable audience.

**Wednesday 26 September 1866** Knocking about in forenoon. At night went with wife to Christy’s minstrels. Enjoyed the fun exceedingly. Ought to have said also that I went to report Blackpool Races in the afternoon. Moderates races; a deal of noise, gambling & drinking. Had four or five glasses of beer.

**Thursday 27 September 1866** Town Countil meeting. Old Alderman Goodair made a long & stupid speech about the new police regulations. Goodair is an unreadable fellow. Saw a ship called Mary Jane launched from Allsop’s yard, Strand Rd at noon.

**Friday 28 September 1866** Paragraphing. Got home in decent time. Bought another pair of boots—tight—curse ‘em. When shall I learn sense? Easy shoes are “the thing”.

**Saturday 29 September 1866** Writing for myself in afternoon. At night went up street with wife. To bed soon. Read some of Emerson’s “Representative Men” before going to bed.

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195 Richard Watson, *An Apology for the Bible: In a Series of Letters, Addressed to Thomas Paine, Author of a Book Entitled, The Age of Reason, Part the Second, Being an Investigation of True and of Fabulous Theology.* By R. Watson, D.D. F.R.S Lord Bishop of Landaff, and Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge. (London: T. Evans, 1796). This was a defence of the Bible in response to Thomas Paine, who had argued that the Old Testament was not the Word of God and the New Testament had failed to establish the divinity of Jesus.

196 American blackface musical comedy show, in which white men in black make-up mocked (sometimes admiringly) African-American music, culture and supposed inferiority. In 1848 Frederick Douglass, the escaped slave and abolitionist leader, called blackface performers ‘the filthy scum of white society, who have stolen from us a complexion denied to them by nature, in which to make money, and pander to the corrupt taste of their white fellow citizens’ (Frederick Douglass, ‘The Hutchinson Family—Hunkerism,’ the *North Star*, 27 October 1848).

197 This was the last Blackpool race meeting for 40 years, at Squires Gate, now an airport.
Sunday 30 September 1866  The body of the young human drowned a fortnight since recovered today near Chain Caul. Saw body at night. Had five glasses of beer this evening.  

198 Mary Ingham. See 15 September 1866.
October

Monday 1 October 1866 A hard day's work today. Removing a big step & some flags in the morning in back yard. At night to a lecture on Jerusalem by Dr Spence. Then writing out for myself an inquest. Working till one o'clock in morning.

Tuesday 2 October 1866 Banked £15 this morning. My wife has saved £65 for me. And by her economy enabled me to pay for our house. At 10 o'clock I went to a Salmon Fishery Commission—a very long dry affair. Got from work at 1.30 in morning.

Wednesday 3 October 1866 To Salmon Fishery Commission—inquiry about fixed engines in estuary of the Ribble. A seven hours sitting. Awfully dry meeting—all about deeds, titles, bills & documents. At night had a few glasses with father-in-law*—rather too many.

Thursday 4 October 1866 Roused myself up with a shower bath. To office at 10 minutes past 9 and wrote hard about salmon fishery commission for six hours. At night remained at home.

Friday 5 October 1866 Again at fishery commission. Subject equally as dry & nearly as uninteresting as before. Got from it at six, & then to tea. Went to office & stayed till 1.30 in morning.

Saturday 6 October 1866 During this week four or five deaths from Asiatic cholera reported. Went with wife to buy a load of potatoes. Paid 7/9 for them. Writing in afternoon. To theatre at night.

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199 'The city of Jerusalem, from a personal survey' by Rev Dr James Spence (c. 1821–1876), former minister of Cannon St Congregational chapel, Preston, later editor of the Evangelical Magazine (Grantham Journal, 4 March 1876, p. 7).
200 Probably the inquest of the bride drowned in the River Ribble.
201 The house was built in 1862 (Preston Corporation planning application by Hewitson, Lancashire Archives CBP/2/1611).
202 The commission outlawed the ancient tradition of using fixed nets in all parts of the Ribble estuary (Chelsea News, 13 October 1866, p. 3).
203 Fishing nets.
204 See 9 August.
205 The programme at the Theatre Royal included ‘Rob Roy’ and the farce, Turn Him Out! (PH, 6 Oct 1866, p. 4).
**Sunday 7 October 1866** Got ready to go to chapel, didn’t get through a lazy servant girl. Read Emerson’s Rep[resentative] Men. Had a goose f[or] dinner.206 At night went to chapel w[ith] wife.

**Monday 8 October 1866** Sent off a pastoral letter by Dr Goss* (Catholic) in support of the Pope’s temporal power.207 Got £1 in. Up street with father in law* at night. Called at two public houses & had three glasses of beer each. Home at 11.

**Tuesday 9 October 1866** Got particulars of a vessel launched at Marsh End on Sunday—a case of necessity.208 Had a row w[ith] an interloping reporter. To a great political reform meeting of working men in the Exchange at night.209 Home at one; to bed at 1.30.

**Wednesday 10 October 1866** Writing out 2 ½ columns of Reform meeting. A good deal of fierce assumption & demand made by the speakers in regard to the right of voting by ballot, a voting franchise &c. And a devilish deal of moral & righteous declamation used by one man in particular who not long ago tried to insult my wife.210


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206 It was traditional to eat goose around Michaelmas (29 September).
207 Pastoral letters from Catholic bishops had been read in churches across the country on Sunday, defending the Pope’s right to rule Rome and the surrounding territory, under increasing threat from the unified kingdom of Italy. Hewitson was probably sending reports of the letter to newspapers.
208 The iron paddle steamer Pirapama, built by the Preston Iron Shipbuilding Company for the Pernambuco Steam Packet Company, Brazil. The launch, delayed from the previous day, was a ‘necessity’ because of the way the ship had been temporarily propped up (PH, 13 October 1866, p. 10).
209 Newspaper owners George Toulmin* and Ernest King* were on the platform at the reform meeting (PC, 13 Oct 1866, p. 6).
210 See 4 August.
211 A thanksgiving service for a successful harvest.
212 Rev John E. Sedgwick (c. 1829–1893) later resigned from his parish of St Alban’s, Cheetwood, because the Bishop of Manchester opposed his Anglo-Catholic views (PH, 11 April 1874, p. 2). The ‘high church’ Ritualist or Anglo-Catholic movement in the Church of England (originating from the Tractarians or Oxford Movement of the 1830s, led by John Henry Newman and Edward Pusey) revived rituals
Friday 12 October 1866 The usual round of paragraph hunting. Little doing. Had time for breathing & reflection.

Saturday 13 October 1866 Working hard all day in getting up pars to send off.

Sunday 14 October 1866 Jobbing about in morning; in afternoon had Robert Kellett & wife to tea; in evening read 40 pages of Emersons Essays. Glorious writer.

Monday 15 October 1866 Easy day; to a “reception” tea party at night at St Peter’s schools; the minister (Rev D. F. Chapman) having wed Bishop Kilmore’s daughter. A rigid blockhead at the door did not let my wife in after tea. Proceedings very adulatory & self righteous in tone. Home at 10.

Tuesday 16 October 1866 Children not so well. They try ones patience. But when wed we must reconcile ourselves to crying children & bad servants & Worked till 12.30 in morning. On coming home, saw a fine bank clerk ‘holding on’ in talk at a street corner with a bad woman. Shame.

Wednesday 17 October 1866 To quarter sessions, Preston. Went late but was sooner there than the chairman (T B Addison) who is nearly always late. Had two beers with a L’pool Courier reporter named Mowatt. Then returned to court, worked hard, got dinner, again returned. Worked till six o’clock then home. A deal of prisoners—60—at these sessions.

previously associated with Roman Catholics, and was strongly opposed by those who saw it as a slide into Catholicism itself.

213 Robert Kellett (1820–1876) was a pawnbroker, of Kilshaw St, a Conservative and Anglican (PH, 1 April 1874, p. 3). Sold his pawnbroking business in 1874.

214 Clarissa Kellett (b. 1829).


216 See 23 July 1866.

217 The bride was Thomasina Verschoyle (b. 1843), daughter of Hamilton Verschoyle.

218 Alexander M. Mowatt (1838–1869), born in Aberdeen, worked on the Caledonian Mercury, Glasgow Herald and Liverpool Daily Post before joining the Tory Liverpool Courier. He ‘died from consumption brought on by hard work and exposure during the long election campaign’ of 1868 (Bury Times 3 July 1869).
Thursday 18 October 1866 Made an inspection of the new town hall & wrote a column descriptive of building. Masonry just finished. A splendid building; but like many other things, much finer out than in. The article I wrote appeared next week. I know this because I am writing a week behind hand in my diary. To science class meeting at night.

Friday 19 October 1866 Writing out Science Class meeting & distribution of prizes by Mayor (C R Jacson*) at Avenham Institution. Made 2 columns of it. Paragraphing during remainder of day.

Saturday 20 October 1866 This afternoon went on horseback to Haighton Hall. Young Captain Anderton shot himself this morning. Felt wretchedly awkward for a while on horse back. Today Walker Riley, solicitor, of Preston hanged himself.

Sunday 21 October 1866 Easy, thinking, reading, sociable day.

Monday 22 October 1866 Did nothing very particular to-day, except go down to Corn Exchange & get the decorations for Infirmary Bazaar to be opened to-morrow. Worked—writing out till midnight.

Tuesday 23 October 1866 Preston Infirmary Bazaar opened to-day. Grand bazaar. Fine banquet afterwar ds in Theatre Royal, given by Mayor, A good deal of drinking & drunkenness at it. I had 4 glasses. Worked afterwar ds for seven hours writing out banquet speeches. Got home after meeting with a friend at Albert Hotel, at 4 o’clock.

Wednesday 24 October 1866 Up at 7. To Lancaster—then on to Hest Bank & Morecambe—at 8. Wife with me. We went to wedding of my
wife’s sister Ellen* to Frederick W Hall,* printer of Sheffield. Spent a
good jolly glorious day at my father-in-law’s at Morecambe. Capital company. Got home by mail train at 11 o’clock at night.


**Friday 26 October 1866** Pretty easy day. Didn’t do much for myself or anybody else. Home at 2 o’clock.

**Saturday 27 October 1866** Paragraphing for self in the afternoon. At night to Bazaar closing. Only a tame affair. Had a row w[ith] Town Clerk on account of his officiousness.

**Sunday 28 October 1866** To Cannon Street Independent Chapel in morning. In the afternoon easy does it. At night had some agreeable company.

**Monday 29 October 1866** Sent par off about a woman called Agnes Osbaldeston living in Crown Street killing her husband last night. He was abusing her & she hit threw a knife at him. It struck his neck and severed jugular vein. Working for office afterwards till eight o’clock at night.

**Tuesday 30 October 1866** Tonight went to a fine banquet in connection with the Preston Licensed Victuallers at Red Lion, Preston. Excellent dinner; several speeches, presentation of £307 made to Mr G Candelet, Secretary of the Provincial Licensed Victuallers’ Defence League.

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224 Hewitson’s father-in-law Joseph Wilson was now running the restaurant on Morecambe pier.
225 Robert Ward (b. 1829).
226 Robert Ascroft.*
227 Osbaldeston, 48, served four months on remand before she was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to four days’ imprisonment at the March 1867 Lancaster assizes (PC, 9 March 1867, p. 7).
228 Trade body for wine merchants and pub landlords.
229 George Candelet (c. 1821–1885).
Got away at 12 o’clock. Worked at the office till two. Clark’s livery stables burned down tonight.

**Wednesday 31 October 1866** Working from eight o’clock in morning till two next morning. Writing out my own report of last night’s banquet & one for the Licensed Victuallers Guardian for which I shall charge £4-9.

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230 Rented stabling for other people’s horses.
231 A new weekly journal for the trade. Hewitson’s fee compares well with his weekly wage of £3.
November

Thursday 1 November 1866 Nothing very particular this forenoon. Heard that Lostock Old Mill had been burned down on Wed. morning. Damage £8,000-£10,000. Went but could get no particulars. A stupidly punctilious person had charge of the ruins. Went to Farington but could get no particulars. The municipal elections today were very quiet in Preston.

Friday 2 November 1866 Running about for pars. Heard of a cholera case but thought that its publicity would only un-nerve people so didn’t give particulars of it, neither did other reporters. At night I and my colleagues had a glass each. Afterwards had several with our sub-editor Laurence [sic].

Saturday 3 November 1866 A big fire today. Todd and Co’s cotton mill at Wheelton destroyed. Damage about £30,000. Sent off particulars.

Sunday 4 November 1866 To Cannon St Independent Chapel with wife this morning. Good sermon. Started to go in the evening but were too late. Read Emerson’s essays.

Monday 5 November 1866 Went with wife to third annual meeting of the Preston Orphan Sunday School in the Exchange. A deal of persons & about 100 orphans present. Moderate speeches—a very pedantic one by a blind man from Liverpool named Leyritz—but good singing.

Tuesday 6 November 1866 Attended a long meeting of the Guardians. Mr Basil Cane, new Poor Law Inspector, made his first appearance. He complained seriously of the state of Preston Workhouse & the House of Recovery. Afterwards I had two glasses.

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232 The mill was destroyed, putting 40 spinners out of work, along with another 150 weavers at the firm’s Farington mill, where the yarn was woven (PH, 3 Nov 1866, p. 5).
233 R.A. Lawrence.*
234 George Leyritz (d. 1869), professor of music and organist at St Thomas’s church, Liverpool (Daily Post, 25 November 1869, p. 5).
235 Richard Basil Cane (c. 1809–1884), responsible for seven northern counties. On his death, the blinds of Bakewell workhouse, near his home, were pulled down as a mark of respect (Todmorden Advertiser, 24 October 1884, p. 8).
of wine at his expense at the Bull Hotel. Got from work at 1.30 in morning

**Wednesday 7 November 1866** A dull day. Altogether had about 4 glasses of beer today. In the afternoon went with wife to inspect an iron steamship called Ipojuca at the quayside. Vessel built for the Pernambuco Steam Navigation Co. It is the first ever built & fitted up at Preston. She is a fine craft. At night made out my monthly bills & then began a description of the steam boat named.

**Thursday 8 November 1866** To a comfortable cattle plague meeting at Kirkham. Only chairman, secretary & two other persons present. After dinner of roast beef & apple pie. As the day was wet, had to stay in an inn & had several beers. Got all written out. At night got particulars of a railway collision at Preston

**Friday 9 November 1866** Town Council meeting. Alderman Edmund Birley* elected mayor. He is a rather pompous self-conceited party. Got home from work pretty early

**Saturday 10 November 1866** To Morecambe this evening after a hard days work. Wife & daughter Florence with me, Spent a comfortable evening with father-in-law.*

**Sunday 11 November 1866** Up at 8, had a cold water bath, then a walk on the shore side. Had another walk in forenoon & amused myself throwing stones on the shore. At night heard a young duffer preach at Morecambe Independent Chapel.

**Monday 12 November 1866** Came home at noon. Worked hard afterwards. Sent off particulars about a terrific boiler explosion which occurred at the spindle & fly shop of Mr R Lowe,236 Bridge St[ree]t Preston.237

**Tuesday 13 November 1866** A very long B[oar]d of Guardians meeting. Mr E Ambler238 made a long speech against what Cane, Poor Law

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236 Ralph Lowe (c. 1813–1892).
237 One man was killed and another badly injured (PC, 17 November 1866. p. 6).
238 Edward ‘Ned’ Ambler (1820?-87), printer, Poor Law guardian, Liberal, Congregationalist, an early member of the committee of the mechanics’ institute;
Inspector said about Preston workhouse last Tuesday. At night went to a great Liquor Traffic Suppression Meeting. General Neal Dow made a long speech—above 3 columns.\(^{239}\) Great display of “shooting stars” tonight in [he] heavens.\(^{240}\)

**Wednesday 14 November 1866** Writing for 9 ½ hours consecutively Neal Dow’s speech. At night went with sister-in-law to hear Christy Minstrels\(^{241}\) at Corn Exchange. Home at 10.15—tired & scooped out. I ought to have stated [hat] whilst leaving my work at one o’clock this morning, I saw a splendid shower of meteors with shooting stars. Such a sight was general & had not been seen for 30 years.

**Thursday 15 November 1866** Had two more hours writing out of Liquor Traffic meeting. In afternoon read the proofs. Easy day. At night wife & I went to a dress concert. A deal of fine folk present. Singing moderate. A Swedish soprano\(^{242}\) took lead.

**Friday 16 November 1866** Immense flood today. All land adjoining Ribble covered with water. Many houses flooded. Water running four or five feet deep along Ribble Place\(^{243}\) also through Lime Street & along Strand Rd at about 10 miles an hour. If Water began to subside at 10.30 at night. If it had risen any higher my house No 48 Fishergate Hill would have been flooded in the Kitchen. Cellar & back yard were full & I ordered wife to take up carpets & fur best furniture into top room.

**Saturday 17 November 1866** Writing about the flood, which seems to have been pretty general in Lancashire & Yorkshire. Several lives lost through it.

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239 The United Kingdom Alliance for the Suppression of the Traffic in all Intoxicating Liquors had been formed in 1853, inspired by the ‘Maine Law’, which prohibited the sale of alcohol in that US state; this early example of prohibition had been led by Neal Dow, mayor of Portland, Maine, a general of Northern forces in the American Civil War.

240 This Leonid meteor storm was caused by Comet Tempel–Tuttle, which has a 33-year orbit.

241 See 25 September.

242 Eugenia Mathilda Enequist (1833–1898).

243 Now known as Broadgate.
Sunday 18 November 1866 A walk in afternoon; to chapel at night. Then reading Emerson.

Monday 19 November 1866 Bothering about getting particulars of flood. At night was nearly starved* to death whilst reporting an Irish Church Missionary Society meeting at Exchange. Very frosty today. Big reform conference in Manchester today. I, wife and Ethelbert had our likeness taken today.

Tuesday 20 November 1866 Attended Board of Guardians. Nothing particular. Writing more about the flood. Great Parliamentary Reform meeting at Manchester this evening.

Wednesday 21 November 1866 Had an easy day. At night to theatre to hear the opera of Faust. It was well given. Wife with me.

Thursday 22 November 1866 At 11 to opening of a new Congregational chapel at Knowle Green beyond Longridge. Rode part of way with a deacon who knew how to smoke cigars & drink bitter beer, I had a beer with him. Came back from Longridge on a railway engine. Night very cold. Worked remainder of night. Sent my carte de visite to publisher of The Times by request.

Friday 23 November 1866 Working, paragraphing & bothering about all day. Nothing very particular.

Saturday 24 November 1866 This afternoon writing pars to send off.

Sunday 25 November 1866 Got ready but didn’t go to chapel. Cut some likenesses in the afternoon. At night went to St Walburge’s Catholic Church & heard a miserable sermon but some pretty good singing.

Monday 26 November 1866 This afternoon went to laying of St Saviour’s Church corner stone by R Newsham. A good procession. Weather unfavourable. Writing out at night.

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244 There is no record of this in The Times archives, but Hewitson’s name appears in a printed list of ‘country correspondents’ from November 1877, along with another Preston correspondent, J.A. Denham (1877 printed staff list, in William Stebbing papers TT/DepED/STB/4/4, News International Archives). For Denham see 15 October 1873.

245 Probably making silhouette portraits by cutting dark card.

246 Richard Newsham (1798–1883) of Winckley Square, lawyer, businessman, county magistrate, Poor Law guardian, Anglican, Conservative, benefactor of many
Tuesday 27 November 1866 To a big parliamentary reform meeting at Blackburn. Had to write dictate\textsuperscript{247} 2 columns of it when I came back.

Wednesday 28 November 1866 To sessions this forenoon. Working till six. At seven went w[ith] wife to a tea party, presentation to (Father Cooper)\textsuperscript{248} & concert at St Ignatius’s Church. Had a rough but a good tea. Didn’t get away till after 11 o’clock. A good deal of ordinary talking

Thursday 29 November 1866 Writing out last night’s meeting till 10.50; then to council meeting. Writing out till 5, Aft[erward]s rambled about to see for news till 6.30. Then home, h[a]d tea & wrote out news till 9 o’clock. Had a pint o[f] beer. Read some Latin exercises & af[terwar]ds 2 ½ columns of a review of Professor Blackie’s Translation o[f] Homer’s Iliad.\textsuperscript{249}

Friday 30 November 1866 Nothing particular.

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\textsuperscript{247} Dictating to another reporter, or possibly even direct to a compositor,* saved time on press night for the Wednesday edition.

\textsuperscript{248} Rev Richard Cooper had moved to St Mary’s, Westminster.

\textsuperscript{249} John Stuart Blackie, \textit{The Iliad in English Verse} (Edmonston and Douglas, 1866).
December

Saturday 1 December 1866 In afternoon writing out pars for myself

Sunday 2 December 1866 To chapel with wife & sister in law (Jane)\(^{250}\) in forenoon. In afternoon at tea with W France.\(^{251}\) Spent a pretty comfortable afternoon & evening. Had a game at drafts & got beaten.

Monday 3 December 1866 To Kirkham & then to a meeting of the Pier Company at Blackpool. Not much doing. A fine sea was running. Got off train at Kirkham & obtained some particulars about a cruelty to a dog case which I sent off to Manchester & L’pool papers.

Tuesday 4 December 1866 To Board of Guardians meeting in forenoon. In afternoon & evening to meetings of the Baptist Union in Fishergate Chapel. Only one good speech made. All the rest of it much diluted with twaddle. Home at 1.30 in morning & then wrote out a railway accident at Wigan.

Wednesday 5 December 1866 Writing out Baptist meeting & some police cases. At night went with wife & two sisters in law (Mary\(^{252}\) & Jane\(^{*}\)) to a Cricketers Ball at the Exchange. Had one or two dances myself. But can’t do much in the saltatory\(^{253}\) line. Home at 2.30 in morning. Got up shortly before 10 o’clock.

Thursday 6 December 1866 Had a very easy day today. At night studying Latin. Went to bed at ten minutes past nine o’clock.

Friday 7 December 1866 Got particulars & wrote them out of a long speech relative to Dock Improvement at Preston delivered by Mr Councillor Rawcliffe.\(^{254}\) Home at 1.30 in morning from work.

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250 Jane Wilson* (1848–1890), sister of Hewitson’s wife Margaret.
251 Will France (1828?-1898), shoemaker who lived above his shop at 117 Fishergate, Hewitson’s friend from the 1860s until his death, their wives and daughters were also friends, Eliza France being a bridesmaid at Florence’s wedding. ‘Being of a jovial, bright, sociable nature, his shop became a centre for the discussion of municipal and political matters.’ A Poor Law Guardian and an Oddfellow (LDP, 16 December 1898, p. 2).
252 Mary Wilson* (1837–1874).
253 Dancing, leaping.
254 John Rawcliffe (1813–1874) of Prospect House, Broughton, coal merchant and mill owner, alderman, mayor (1869–1870), ‘tall, strong, straight, and active … talks
Saturday 8 December 1866 Writing pars for myself in afternoon. At night went up street with wife

Sunday 9 December 1866 Improving cellar in forenoon. Reading Emerson in afternoon. At night with wife to Cannon Street Chapel & gave a shilling.

Monday 10 December 1866 Easy forenoon & afternoon. This evening took back a little girl named Rachel, a servant with us, to Penwortham Workhouse. We didn’t want her any longer. She told lies &c At night went up street, bought a gill of rum to put into mincemeat. Then went to a teetotal meeting at Temperance-hall to report. Good speeches.

Tuesday 11 December 1866 An easy day. Nothing stirring anywhere. Left work at 12.15 in morning. Had a drop of beer afterwards. Home soon after one

Wednesday 12 December 1866 Another quiet day. A terrible explosion occurred today at Barnsley in a coal pit. 300 persons killed. I studied Latin—first declension—hard today. Mr R Sharrock’s mill in Gregson Lane Higher Walton burned down nearly tonight. Damage about £10,000. Exchanged my watch guard for the one I now wear which is worth upwards of £5. Got it from a London jeweller.

Thursday 13 December 1866 Another explosion at Barnsley. 30 more persons killed. Also an explosion today in a pit in Staffordshire by which upwards of 100 persons were killed. Went to Mr Sharrock’s mill. Got particulars of fire. Came back to Preston & wrote them out for office. Had a drop of beer at night up street.

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in a manly, go-ahead style. Is florid, flowery, catawompous [fierce, savage], and patriotic in tone; played the organ, Anglican and Conservative, ‘the only man who has quoted more than six lines of Shakspere [sic] consecutively in our Town Council for twelve years’ (PTC, 13–14). One of the owners of the Preston Herald.

Rachel had lasted nearly seven months.

The worst mining disaster in England, it killed 361 miners and rescuers, caused by firedamp (flammable gas).

The three-storey mill, owned by James Sharrock, employed about 60 people (PH, 15 December 1866, p. 5).

The ‘Talk o’ th’ Hill disaster north of Stoke killed 89 men and boys.
Friday 14 December 1866 Paragraphing today. Nothing stirring in town. Home at 12.30. Had a glass of beer, a smoke, a small read & then to bed.

Saturday 15 December 1866 Went to first meeting of Blackpool Assembly & Concert Room Company this afternoon. Had something to eat & a walk on Blackpool pier, then to meeting; then home.

Sunday 16 December 1866 In bed till 11.30. In afternoon had a walk; at night with wife to Chapel. Sermon about Barnsley pit explosion.

Monday 17 December 1866 To police court at 11.30. Afterwards attended an inquest on Tom Banks’s daughter who was killed yesterday at Deepdale road railway station. Inquest over at 3.45pm. Writing pars for self afterwards.

Tuesday 18 December 1866 To Board of Guardians meeting. Nothing particular. At night to a lecture in Theatre by E Harper of London, against Dr Pusey and the Tractarians. Good lecture, but rather bigoted.

Wednesday 19 December 1866 To Garstang Institute Bazaar this forenoon. Very fine day. Nice out.* Aspden* with me. We played at stone throwing as we came back. At night I was throng writing out Harper’s lecture.

Thursday 20 December 1866 Writing out Garstang Bazaar. In afternoon went with wife & her sister to the Preston Cemetery to see graves of our two children—Madge & Ethel. Studied a Latin lesson at night.

Friday 21 December 1866 Ordinary paragraphing in forenoon. In the evening had a look round butchers’ shops &c—Christmas show—and afterwards had two glasses of beer.

259 The building opened in 1868 on Talbot Square, becoming a Yates’s Wine Lodge and a cinema in later years.

260 Margaret Banks, a 15-year-old power loom weaver, daughter of Thomas Banks, secretary of the Spinners and Minders’ Association (cotton workers’ union) was on Deepdale station when a man held his hand out of the train window as a joke. She took his hand but one or the other would not let go when the train started, and she fell between the platform and the train wheels. Verdict: accidental death (PH, 22 December 1866, p. 11).

261 Edward Harper (d. 1902), Grand Master of the Orange Order.

262 It was traditional for butchers to decorate their shops, and for local newspapers to review the displays (e.g. PH, 22 December 1866, p. 5).
Saturday 22 December 1866 Nothing of any moment today.

Sunday 23 December 1866 In afternoon had a read. At night with wife to chapel & heard a good lecture on Jacob by Mr Martyn.*

Monday 24 December 1866 Working extra today for Xs [Christmas] Day. At night went w[ith] wife, my daughter Flory & sister in law Jane* to a tea party at Bairstow St[ree]t school (Independent).263 Decent tea; a frightful amount of talking. Home at half past 9. Sat up until one o’clock & had a play at cards with wife.

Tuesday 25 December 1866, Christmas Day To work at half past nine o’[clock]. Easy day. Dropped work at 6 o’[clock]k at night. Laurence264 [sic] our sub-editor came & h[a]d dinner with us. Spent a quiet sociable Xs [Christmas] night with my wife, Laurence & two brothers in law. To bed at 1.30 in morning.

Wednesday 26 December 1866 Up at 10; to police court, then home & remained reading Latin & Greek history till 20 minutes to 8 when I went to with wife to hear one of Harry Clifton’s265 concerts at t[he] Corn Exchange. I was pretty fairly amused.

Thursday 27 December 1866 To annual general session o[f] magistrates at Preston courthouse. Not much doing. Got proceedings written out easily. At night went with wife & sister in law (Jane*) to Catholic ball at Corn Exchange, where a brute brute of a fellow who was drunk struck at me. I sent him to t[he] police station & he w[a]s glad to beg pardon.

Friday 28 December 1866 To work at 9.30—rather tired. Don’t care much f[or] balls. Worked hard until 2.30 in morning.

Saturday 29 December 1866 Up at 11. Then up street. Wrote out some pars in aft[ernoon]. At night to a supper of railway employés at t[he] Castle Inn,266 where there w[a]s much conviviality where I made a speech & where I got rather too much wine &c.

263 Bairstow St School was associated with Cannon St Chapel.
264 R.A. Lawrence.*
266 A dinner for clerks, porters and ‘lurry drivers’ of the North Union Railway Company.
Sunday 30 December 1866 Somewhat ill. In afternoon playing with children. At night to Trinity Church where there is room for 1200 persons but at which there were only about 60.

Monday 31 December 1866 Up at 10. A deal of snow upon the ground. The fall of it was the first we had this winter. It came down singularly—in a line from west to east Lancashire, passing through Preston & missing many places I understand, on each side. Frosty this afternoon & evening. Working hard this afternoon & in a rather bad temper. My temper wants mending so does that of other people in my house.

[At back of diary, an abandoned attempt by Hewitson to account for how he spent his Sundays]

January 7
Being with Brother-in-law at Holme today & it being very stormy didn’t go to any place of worship. Talked in morning; read in afternoon; played cards at night

January 14
Was at Holme today. To church in morning; had a walk in afternoon; in evening to church; & afterwards wrote a speech for a friend.

January 21
In a queer half & happy half contemplative half miserable mood today.

January 28
Spent this day rationally.

February 4
Trying to improve a shower bath in morning; in afternoon walking, reading, thinking & at Roman Catholic chapel.

February 11
Omitted to write out remainder of Sunday work &c