Anthony Hewitson (1836-1912) was a typical Victorian journalist, working in one of the largest sectors of the periodical press, provincial newspapers. His diaries, written between 1862 and 1912, lift the veil of anonymity hiding the people, processes and networks involved in the creation of Victorian newspapers. They also tell us about Victorian fatherhood, family life, and the culture of a Victorian town.

Diaries of nineteenth-century provincial journalists are extremely rare. Anthony Hewitson went from printer's apprenticeship to newspaper reporter and eventually editor of his own paper. Every night he jotted down the day's doings, his thoughts and feelings. The diaries are a lively account of the reporter's daily round, covering meetings and court cases, hunting for gossip or attending public executions and variety shows, in and around Preston, Lancashire.

Andrew Hobbs's introduction and footnotes provide background and analysis of these valuable documents. This full scholarly edition offers a wealth of new information about reporting, freelancing, sub-editing, newspaper ownership and publishing, and illuminates aspects of Victorian periodicals and culture extending far beyond provincial newspapers.

The Diaries of Anthony Hewitson, Provincial Journalist are an indispensable research tool for local and regional historians, as well as social and political historians with an interest in Victorian studies and the media. They are also illuminating for anyone interested in nineteenth-century social and cultural history.

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EDITED BY ANDREW HOBBS

Volume 1: 1865–1887

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Cover image: Anthony Hewitson’s carte-de-visite (1860s), by Robert Pateson. Courtesy of The Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library, Preston, CC BY-NC-ND. Cover design by Anna Gatti.
1873

[Blackwood’s Larger Desk Diary No. 5, 1873, with a portrait of Thomas Carlyle]¹

[Inside front cover, in Hewitson’s hand:]
Anthony Hewitson’s
Diary
for 1873
Preston

See end of this for some account of my family hist[o]ry²

[in pencil:] see under addresses

[In ballpoint, in another hand:]

Now the property of his grandson Robert Hewitson Blackmore, 14 Florizel Street, Burwood, Victoria

[A page of entries for 11–17 December has been bound into the diary after 11 September. These entries are given in chronological order here]

[Anthony and Margaret Hewitson, their four children and Margaret’s brother Joseph still lived in Gillett’s Yard, Fishergate, behind the Preston Chronicle office. Hewitson, aged 36, had owned the Chronicle for nearly five years and was making a comfortable living from it, alongside other printing, freelance reporting and Margaret’s stationery business.]
January

Wednesday 1 January 1873 For seeing into another year [sic] I thank God. There is no cant about this. May it be a year of happiness, prosperity & progress to myself, my wife, & my children.

Up out of bed at 8 this morning. A very throng, hard days work from 8.45 to 9.30 at night. Shut up shop, like nearly everybody in the street Fishergate after dinner; & then like many of them, I believe, worked behind the scenes—ledgering, advertisements. Street busy. Stormy at night—although the parsons have been praying for fine or dry weather. God, they suppose, does not know how to manage this little matter on general principles & so they supplicate Him to change his general laws. To bed about 10.30.

Thursday 2 January 1873 Marking paper—Chronicle—in shop—doing newspaper work—& at night got up a handbill affair about Dr Broughton’s Compound Antibilious Pills for Levi Todd, Chemist, my next door neighbour. To bed about 10.30.

Friday 3 January 1873 Up at 8.20. Working in shop &c till 12 & then began writing leading article* & stray notes—Finished work at 2 in morning—a reasonable time for first publishing morning in new year.

Saturday 4 January 1873 Rose at 10. Working in office till 10.25 at night.

Sunday 5 January 1873 Up at 10. Afterwards went to W Singleton’s,* Grimshaw Street & had a Turkish bath. Cleaning the body, if done for the sake of cleanliness, is looking after the temple of the soul—attending to God’s property entrusted to man. In evening read a portion of Bradlaugh’s Impeachment of the House of Brunswick; then wrote some business letters, including one to Lord Derby. To bed about 10.30.

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3 Writing amounts of money owed or owing on an office copy of that week’s issue, for advertisements or freelance articles, as a reference guide for sending bills and payments.

4 ‘A prompt and certain specific in cases of Liver and Stomach Disorders, Indigestion, Giddiness, Headache, Loss of Appetite, and General Derangement’ (PC, 23 August 1873, p. 8).

5 See 17 December 1872.

6 Charles Bradlaugh, The Impeachment of the House of Brunswick (London: Austin & Co, 1872), a republican pamphlet by the atheist Liberal MP, a supporter of trade unionism, republicanism, and universal suffrage.
Monday 6 January 1873 Heard this morning—first day of “Great Saturday Horse Fair”—that my friend Jas. Kenyon* had rambled off somewhere in “the blues”. Went with a friend to police station & set on two detectives to search. Found out in evening, that Kenyon had rambled home into Claughton. At night I & wife went to a carding party at house of a person called R. Lancaster7 in Eastcliff rd. Had supper there, & stayed till 1 in morning.

Tuesday 7 January 1873 Busy with office & shop work.

Wednesday 8 January 1873 Same, & to bed in good time.

Thursday 9 January 1873 Much same; working till about 11/30 at night—writing. Napoleon III8 died to-day at Chislehurst.

Friday 10 January 1873 Shop & office work till noon. At 2 pm to Guild Hall; annual meeting of County of Lancaster Rifle Association; Lord Derby in chair; but he did not say much. At office till 2 next morning.

Saturday 11 January 1873 Up at 10 this morning; working moderately hard all day. At night wrote an account (only short) of Preston Horse Fair to the Times; to bed at 11.45.

Sunday 12 January 1873 Up at 9.30. Wanted to go, with my two sons to Quakers’ Chapel but my wife persuaded me off this & I went to St Luke’s church where Bishop of Manchester (Dr Fraser*) was preaching in connection with re-opening of an organ there. A large working class congregation. Complex sermon; but good at end. In afternoon I & wife hired a conveyance, & drove to Kenyon’s in Claughton. Found Jim Kenyon* in bed, in his right mind; but with feet & hands hurt. Found John Hays,10 formerly of Albert Hotel Preston, there. Kenyon it seems had been labouring under the idea that he had a mission of physical

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7 Richard Lancaster (b. 1838), commercial traveller for an Edinburgh brewery (see 12 December 1885).
8 Charles Louis Napoléon Bonaparte (1808–1873), nephew of Napoleon I, had been in exile in England since defeat at the hands of Prussia in 1870. His visit to Southport’s Lord St in 1846 is said to have influenced Haussmann’s redesign of Paris, under Napoleon III’s direction: Trevor Smith, ‘My Favourite History Place’, The Historian, Autumn, 2017, 42–43.
9 The association sponsored shooting competitions for rifle volunteers.
10 John Hayes (1832–1873), builder’s merchant of Stanley Place, Preston.
abasement & anti-carnality on hand; so when he came home, early last Monday morning, he left his coat, purse & keys on highway, walked on stones, & landed home a most peculiarly starved, demented, & sorry spectacle. In course of week he imagined he had a great spiritual mission on hand & got it into his head that he was the King of Israel. Landed home safe at 10.45. To bed at 11.45.

**Monday 13 January 1873** Wrote out a pill handbill for Levi Todd, my next door neighbour. At 12.45 noon went to Adlington, where this morning there had been a railway collision—about ¾ of a mile south of station. Ten persons hurt. Got particulars, sent them off to about 20 papers; home at 4 o’clock; dinner & tea together consisting of tea, bread & butter & 3 eggs. At night read a proof of Diary;¹¹ bed about 10.30.

**Tuesday 14 January 1873** To Kirkham collecting newspaper a/cs [accounts] from agents; had dinner at Station Hotel; then to Fleetwood, & got some money from an agent there; back at 2.55 in afternoon; should have got off at Poulton; but missed a station, & being throng reading a book never looked out at Poulton & did not find I had passed it, till I had got near Kirkham where I got out, went to Lytham by another train, collected an a/c [account] & sent off some particulars of a coursing meeting. Met with a man named Lamb who showed me a piano to which was attached an organ. Home by 6.40 pm train.

**Wednesday 15 January 1873** Went (accompanied by Mr Bakewell*) at 2pm to Longridge to collect an a/c [account]; could not get it; walked to Goosnargh & got much out of the way—2 miles; had tea at Bushell’s Arms; could not meet with man whom I wanted money from; walked, past Whittingham new asylum, to Grimsargh—guide part of way. Home wet & dirty about 8, & very much vexed at my hard luck.

**Thursday 16 January 1873** Shop & office work all day.

**Friday 17 January 1873** Consumed much time to-day in getting particulars about a very virtuous-seeming curate of Preston Parish Church named Benzing.¹² Rumour says he is the father of an illegitimate

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¹¹ *The Tyldesley Diaries.*

¹² See 28 June 1872. Rev Christian Benzing was in his forties. See 19 and 27 February, 11 April and report of appeal hearing, PC, 12 April 1873, p. 5.
child of which Miss Woodhouse, 13 18 years old (“is mother” [these two words in pencil]), sister of clerk at the parish church. Benzing has left Preston.

**Saturday 18 January 1873** Finished work at 4 this morning; a glass of ale, a pipe, to bed; up at 10; at one in afternoon to meeting of Lancashire Farmers Club & Chamber of Agriculture in Town Hall. Working till 10.20 at night. To bed at 11.45.

**Sunday 19 January 1873** Up at 9.20. Had a Turkish Bath afterwards; after dinner read some proofs of Tyldesley’s Diary; then examined my children Florey, Bertie & Horace in their catechism. In evening read Bradlaugh’s Impeachment of House of Brunswick.

**Monday 20 January 1873** Making out bills & in forenoon wrote a letter for Will Heaps 14 Veterinary Surgeon, Friargate, to the Liverpool Vet Soc[iet]y, condemnatory of the conduct of some man connected with that body. At night to distribution of prizes to Preston Artillery Corps by Colonel Wilson Patten* MP. Only stayed till end of speechmaking & then telegraphed a little to Manchester Examiner. To bed about 11.

**Tuesday 21 January 1873** Bill making out greater part of day.

**Wednesday 22 January 1873** Ditto. At night began a new course; had no beer to supper but a glass of gin afterwards & a pipe; thinking that as I am of a nervo-sanguine-bilious temperament it would be better for me. 15

**Thursday 23 January 1873** Felt much better this morning than for some time—clearer-headed & lighter. Took a liver pill before breakfast & waited for about an hour before I had anything to eat. Making bills out all day. Glass of gin & glass pipe at night, before going to bed.

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13 Christiana Elizabeth Woodhouse (b. 1854).
14 See 28 October 1865.
15 From Galen’s idea of the four humours, taken up by phrenologists, to classify personality types, usually thought to be a mixture. Those of a nervous temperament were said to be deep thinkers and feelers, often anxious; sanguine: extravert; bilious: extravert, decisive, ambitious and short-tempered. Alexander Stewart, *Our Temperaments: Their Study and Their Teaching. A Popular Outline* (London: Crosby Lockwood and Son, 1892), Chap. IV.
Friday 24 January 1873 Same this morning as yesterday morning. Report in to-days papers of a terrible run-down in the channel off Dungeness by an unknown steamer. Vessel run down an emigrant ship called Northfleet. Upwards of 300 drowned. Disaster took place about 10.30 on Wed[nesday] night. Working hard all day.

Saturday 25 January 1873 To bed at 4 this morning; up at 8.30 & got particulars for 2nd edition of a small saw-dust grinding mill in Warwick St[reet] being burned down. Fire occurred about 4. In office till 10.10; then shut shop up; gin & beer.

Sunday 26 January 1873 Up at about 10.10 this morning. Read a lecture by Dr Hitchman of Liverpool on Materialism & Anthropology; in evening read Peebles’s “Myth, Man or God” then tried table turning; but table would not move; read; supper; bed about 10.10 at night.

Monday 27 January 1873 Throng making out bills nearly all day. Had a pipe & a glass of gin at bed time.

Tuesday 28 January 1873 Same

Wednesday 29 January 1873 Same. At night went with my wife to Theatre Royal to see Professor Anderson give a conjuring entertainment which was very clever.

Thursday 30 January 1873 Throng with a/cs [accounts] all day.

Friday 31 January 1873 Bothering about—sub-editing,* writing stray notes &c. In afternoon went to Corn Exchange & got particulars of

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16 The Northfleet sank within half an hour, with 293 drowned and 86 saved.
19 John Henry Anderson (1814–1874), conjuror, ‘the great wizard of the North’, whose act included exposure of spiritualist tricks. This night’s programme included ‘SPIRITUALISM DENOUNCED by Drums, Bells and Rapping Tables’ (*PH*, 29 January 2873, p. 1).
decorations for Rifle Volunteer Ball. At night went to report at Exchange, Lord Skelmersdale\textsuperscript{20} assumed command of 6\textsuperscript{th} Administrative Battalion & he made a speech moderately good. Lady Skelmersdale\textsuperscript{21} afterwards distributed prizes to the Volunteers. Back to office; then took my wife, her sister Jane* & one of Will France’s* daughters to rifle ball in area of Exchange. I did not stop. Wife & her sister returned at 3 in morning. At about 4 I finished work & to bed.

\textsuperscript{20} Edward Bootle-Wilbraham, Lord Skelmersdale (1837–1898), Conservative politician.

\textsuperscript{21} The former Lady Alice Villiers (d. 1897), daughter of the Earl of Clarendon.
February

Saturday 1 February 1873 Working in office all day. In evening brother in law John Wilson* came over from Lancaster with two of his lads. At about 8 I took three of my children to see Prof[essor] Anderson at Theatre; John & his lads also went. I returned leaving them in. Worked till 10.45; then had a glass of gin at Shelley’s Arms with brother-in-law John; then home, having supper a chat & to bed.

Sunday 2 February 1873 Up about 9. Went along with brother in law John* to Singleton’s* Turkish Bath. We had each a bath. Price of a bath is now 1/3 each; 3d being put on through increase in price of coal. In afternoon reading a little; in evening playing at cards.

Monday 3 February 1873 This forenoon Lord Edward Howard22 of Glossop called to see me; Mr J B Booth23 introducing him. I first became acquainted with Lord Edward when he was a candidate for Preston in 1868. He is a plain, kindly, polished gentlemanly man. Finished work about 10 o’clock. Supper; made out diary; smoke; bed.

Tuesday 4 February 1873 Busy in office till 7.45; then went with my wife to hear a discussion on Church & State between Rev J G Gordon24 of Darlington & Rev E Lee25 curate of Preston parish church, in Corn Exchange.

Wednesday 5 February 1873 In office & shop all day till night when I, wife, & sister-in-law Jane,* went to discussion in Corn Exchange again. Immense meeting, as on previous night & very orderly. Both disputants, good hands at advocating their own sides—Lee for Church & Gordon against it. I am greatly in favour of Gordon’s side.

Thursday 6 February 1873 Working in shop & office till about ten.

22 Edward George Fitzalan Howard, first Baron Howard of Glossop (1818–1883) was the second son of the 13th duke of Norfolk, a Liberal, Roman Catholic, and campaigner for Catholic schools. He was portrayed as Lord Vere by Disraeli in his 1844 novel Coningsby (ODNB).
23 See 29 July 1872.
25 See 27 October 1872.
Friday 7 February 1873 Ditto & writing leading article matter till about 9 at night.

Saturday 8 February 1873 To bed, from work, at about 2 this morning. Up at 10. Working hard. At night felt heavy & melancholy. Father-in-law* popped in about 9.30; so did Dr Smith* & we went to Robinson’s, 26 King’s Arms, Church Street, had some gin &c & home at 11. Supped & talked till about midnight; then to bed.

Sunday 9 February 1873 Up at 10.30 this morning; in afternoon read some of Esop’s [sic] Fables to my children; afterwards read to my wife, father-in-law* &c parts from Dialectical Society’s report on Spiritualism. 27 At night went with father-in-law to John Noblet’s,* Plumpton Brook Inn & had three glasses of beer; then home; had supper, a pipe, a chat, & to bed. My youngest child Ada not well & my wife had an uneasy night in looking after her, with servant.

Monday 10 February 1873 Up at 8.10 this morning & felt very well all day. My daughter Ada poorly—had cold, sore mouth & throat. Made out some bills in afternoon & evening. Father-in-law* went home to Morecambe to-day. I finished work about 10.

Tuesday 11 February 1873 Working moderately hard today.

Wednesday 12 February 1873 Same to-day. At night went on to Mr Joseph Livesey’s,* 13 Bank Parade. Had a talk with him about Rev C Benzing, 28 late curate at Preston Parish Church who is charged with being father of an illegitimate child given birth to by Miss Woodhouse, sister of Clerk at Parish church; also talked with him about foolish & tyrannical parts he pointed out in the canons & prayers of Church of England. Later on, at night, I, my wife, my sister in law Jane, Mr Barton 29 reporter at Herald office & Mr Bakewell* schoolmaster, had some table rapping experiments. We had raps indicating presence of spirit of my brother Tom* who said he was happy; had seen the spirits of our three

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26 Richard Robinson (b. 1816), landlord.
27 Report On Spiritualism of the Committee of the London Dialectical Society (London: Longmans, Green, Reader & Dyer, 1871). The society had been set up to examine spiritualism, but its report was ridiculed for its vagueness.
28 See 17 January.
29 See 5 January 1866 and 20 October 1872.
children Madge, Ethe & Amy & of sister in law Sarah,* &c. Commenced at 10; finished about 12.

**Thursday 13 February 1873** Working all day till late at night

**Friday 14 February 1873** Ditto

**Saturday 15 February 1873** To bed this morning about 2 & up at 10. Working & reading till about 10 at night; had some beer & to bed about 12.

**Sunday 16 February 1873** Stayed in bed till 11 this forenoon. In afternoon read a book called “The Tin Trumpet”\(^{30}\) also put my children through their catechism; at night ordered a suit of clothes from my brother in law John Wilson* of Lancaster. Wrote out (at end of this book) an account of my fathers ancestors & family. The particulars he gave me some time ago.\(^{31}\)

**Monday 17 February 1873** Re-making out bills, looking after money & bothering about. In evening I & my wife went to Opera (English) at Theatre Royal. The opera performed was “Maritana”.\(^{32}\) Singing good; audience poor. Left (during the farce) at 11.15; home; supper; to bed.

**Tuesday 18 February 1873** In & about my office all day.

**Wednesday 19 February 1873** Same. To police court at 11. Reported a bastardy case; the plaintiff being Christiana Elizabeth Woodhouse,\(^{33}\) sister of parish clerk & niece of Rev Canon Parr,* Vicar of Preston, & the defendant the Rev Christian Benzing curate at Preston Parish Church. Benzing did not appear, & an order to pay costs & 5/- a week for 16 years was made upon him.

**Thursday 20 February 1873** Same & at night doing a little in leader writing.

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\(^{30}\) Horatio Smith, *The Tin Trumpet; or, Heads and Tales, for the Wise and Waggish; to Which Are Added, Poetical Selections by the Late Paul Chatfield* (London: Whittaker, 1836), an alphabetically organised collection of humorous and satirical sayings, perhaps a forerunner of Flaubert’s *Dictionary of Received Ideas*.

\(^{31}\) See pp. 11-14.

\(^{32}\) By Irish composer Vincent Wallace.

\(^{33}\) See 17 January 1873.
Friday 21 February 1873 Throng at work. At noon to-day Jim Kenyon* (of Claughton) railway goods collector here, called on me & intimated that his delusions pertaining to the operations of some secret society had re-appeared. I endeavoured to reason him out of it, & agreed to have a talk with him on Saturday evening. Mrs Ward,34 wife of Robert Ward, draper Friargate—a friend of mine—died I think this morning; leaving 8 or 10 children. Working hard all through the day.

Saturday 22 February 1873 To bed at 4; up at 11; working till 10.10 at night; supper; bed at 12. Mutton rose to-day to 1/1 & ½d per pound.

Sunday 23 February 1873 Up at 11. Chiefly occupied in cutting out pieces from old numbers of Notes & Queries.35 In evening taught my two sons Bert & Horace their catechism. My daughter Florence & servant went to Parish Church. Supper at 10; a pipe; bed at 10.30.

Monday 24 February 1873 Working in shop, office &c all day. At night went with my wife to the Theatre—opera La Africaine.36 Did not care much for it. Home about 11 o’clock; supper & bed afterwards. Was invited to go this evening with my wife to a tea party at St Saviour’s School, Bamber Bridge; but reasonably declined it. The dowager Lady Shelley37 died today.

Tuesday 25 February 1873 Today doing nothing extraordinary—ordinary working.

Wednesday 26 February 1873 Today the Commission of inquiry into Rev. C. Benzing Ditto mainly

Thursday 27 February 1873 At noon today John Hayes38 & a young man named Clitheroe called on me to say that Jim Kenyon* (previously referred to) had not got out of bed at his lodgings in Stanley Place. Got

34 Ann Ward (1827–1873).
35 Hewitson probably filed these historical snippets for reference.
36 L’Africaine (The African Woman) by Giacomo was a fictionalised life of explorer Vasco de Gama, performed by the ‘Grand English Opera Company’.
37 See 7 October 1865.
38 See 12 January 1873.
Dr Arminson, went down, had to burst open bedroom door; found Kenyon in bed under the delusion that he had been drugged by some secret society the night before. Today the commission appointed to inquire into case against Rev C Benzing who was last week ordered to pay 5/- a week to Miss Woodhouse for an illegitimate child resumed its inquiries; he did not turn up. At work myself till about 8, & then went to a Spiritual séance, by invitation, to E Foster’s, Friargate; my wife with me. They expected a professional medium from Liverpool over, but he did not turn up; so three or four Spiritualists sat at a table—everything being in complete darkness—& there were several manifestations—tambourine playing, banjo strumming &c; only it was all done in the dark & that is not a very reasonable condition of things. If Spiritualism is true, it is equally true in the light as in the dark.

Friday 28 February 1873 At work till 2 o’clock in morning.

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39 Dr William Brown Arminson (1830–1902).
40 See 15 November 1872.
March

Saturday 1 March 1873 Up at 10.15 this morning; to bed at 12 at night. To-day Kenyon* was conveyed to Lancaster Asylum.

Sunday 2 March 1873 Up at 10.15; reading Leisure Hour\textsuperscript{41} &c. In afternoon walked into garden with wife & Florey; then some toffy was made for children; then I cut out some odds & ends from Notes & Queries. At night went across to Will France’s.\textsuperscript{9}

Monday 3 March 1873 Rose at 8.15; amongst my articles from post a series of good advertisements & a copy of Samuel Plimsoll’s “Appeal” respecting seamen & ships.\textsuperscript{42} In afternoon went with wife to look through Ferguson’s shop & house wh[ich] we are going to take.\textsuperscript{43} In evening went to Jack Johnson’s\textsuperscript{44} (Orchard St) & selected about £12 worth of electro-plated goods in lieu of money for advertising. Called at Brindles, Fishergate, & had a glass of beer; home; supper; bed 10.50.

Tuesday 4 March 1873 Out of bed just before 8 this morning & into workroom, having previously taken a liver pill. Engaged in shop & office work all day. At night I & my wife went to the Theatre & saw Madame Beatrice & Company in a French play. Good piece, capital characters & parts well taken. Everybody seemed satisfied.\textsuperscript{45} Home at 10.35; supper; pipe; bed.

Wednesday 5 March 1873 In shop & about place all day; excepting about half an hour in forenoon when I went with J Foster\textsuperscript{46} machine man to Cannon Street premises to see about removing & fixing my

\textsuperscript{41} Popular penny weekly magazine, covering a wide range of subjects, plus serialised novels.

\textsuperscript{42} Samuel Plimsoll, \textit{Our Seamen: An Appeal} (London: Virtue & Co., 1873). This booklet argued for laws to protect seamen from sailing in unsafe ships. The topic was in the news after 15 seamen were imprisoned for refusing to sail on the steamship Peru; two days later, the ship sank (The Graphic, 15 March 1873, p. 238).

\textsuperscript{43} J.A. Ferguson, 125 Fishergate, sold stationery, books, toys and fancy goods. The premises were two doors away from the new purpose-built premises of Hewitson’s more powerful rival, George Toulmin and his \textit{Preston Guardian}.

\textsuperscript{44} See 19 March 1868.

\textsuperscript{45} \textit{Nos Intimes} by Victorien Sardou.

\textsuperscript{46} Joseph Foster (1831–1913), engineer and inventor, specialising in newspaper machinery.
machinery there. In evening I & wife went to Mr James’s, 47 upholsterer, Glover St[ree]t; had tea; numerous company afterwards—Walter Bond (inventor mainly of a new printing machine) 48 Will France,* old Mr Jones 49 & &c. Stayed till about 11; then to Will Frances & had a talk & a glass there; then home.

Thursday 6 March 1873 Up about 8.30. Not well. Working nevertheless all day. At night read a part of Samuel Plimsolls work on seamen &c. Supper; bed at about 10.30.

Friday 7 March 1873 Up about 8. My wife ill to-day—bad cold. Wm Livesey* sent me MS making two leaders. 50 Working all day; finished work at night at about 11.30—earlier than have ever done since I have had the Chronicle.

Saturday 8 March 1873 Up at 6.20 this morning & into shop where I was engaged all day—my wife being ill upstairs. To-day I sent round by letter, to Joseph Foster machinist, St Paul’s Square, saying that I accepted his tender to remove my engine, printing machines (news & job*) & folding machine &c for £25. To bed about 12 at night.

Sunday 9 March 1873 Out of bed about 11 this morning. This is my son Bertie’s 8th birthday. God bless him. He is a fine, sharp but rather ill-tempered lad. We had some oranges & a cake in celebration of this day. At night I read the “Tin Trumpet” & my wife Dodsley’s translations of the Economy of Life. 51

Monday 10 March 1873 Rose about 8.15 this morning. My wife not well to-day—bad throat & chest & Ada my daughter out of joint through eating (I think) some orange peel. Working away in shop & thereabouts

47 Possibly Edward James (b. 1821).
49 Probably Robert Jones.*
50 The two leaders in Saturday’s Chronicle, presumably Livesey’s work, were on the Game Laws and ship safety. It is not clear why he wrote them this week, nor how often the Chronicle’s leaders were written by someone other than Hewitson.
51 Robert Dodsley, The Oeconomy of Human Life (London: M. Cooper, 1750), a collection of moral precepts purportedly by ancient authors in India and China.
all day. Wil[lia]m Livesey* offered to buy shop I am going to so as to make me safe against anybody who may bid over my head or as tenant. I got to know name of landlord & found he was a man out of his mind. At night making up an oleograph\textsuperscript{52} catalogue; supper; pipe; bed 11.15.

**Tuesday 11 March 1873** My wife unwell—bad chest & bowels wrong. I got up at 6.15 & made her some tea. Working in office all day shop &c all day. At night Mr Bakewell* came & after we had had a glass of beer each we went to Pateson’s* photographer, where we had a talk on philosophy; religion, & lunacy, & amongst it all had two glasses of beer each. Left about 10; to bed at 11.

**Wednesday 12 March 1873** Got up at 6 & made wife some arrowroot gruel; then to bed till 8.15; in afternoon by train to Preston Junction & walked on—in 20 minutes—to St Saviour’s ch[urch]h, Bamber Bridge where Bishop of Manchester was holding a confirmation—210 lads & lasses from this & adjoining districts. Bishop who is a fine Christian delivered a good discourse. Gladstone’s government defeated by majority of 3 on Dublin University Bill this morning.\textsuperscript{53}

**Thursday 13 March 1873** Working in office all day till about ten at night. The general gossip to-day is about politics. At night it was announced that Gladstone had resigned. Will Disraeli (the cunning, rhetorical conjurer) take his place? My wife still unwell—bad cold.

**Friday 14 March 1873** In shop & office all day. Continued talk about political crisis. Got to bed in good time—11.40—considering the night.

**Saturday 15 March 1873** Up at 6.30 & down in shop; remained there all day till nearly 11 at night. Bought R Mudie’s work on “Man” today.\textsuperscript{54}

**Sunday 16 March 1873** In bed till 11.30 this morning. This was my son Horace’s 6\textsuperscript{th} birthday. He is a finely-developed good-natured, dullish lad. Bless him. I did not feel well in evening—damnably eccentric in thought & block-headed in feeling. Still I spent a pleasant evening with my children & heard them read out of their books.

\textsuperscript{52} A print textured to resemble an oil painting.

\textsuperscript{53} Irish University Bill.

Monday 17 March 1873 Rose easily; but was quickly in a wicked, devilish temper, & broke some cups & saucers. What a fool! Working all day in shop & office—making out bills &c. It was announced today that Mr Disraeli had declined to form a cabinet & that Mr Gladstone complying with the Queen’s wishes had agreed to “go on”.

Tuesday 18 March 1873 Up at 8.10. Working all day. An intimation was made today that I might stay at my present premises for another 12 months; the public hall scheme being a failure. I declined the offer—said I could take nothing less than about a 5 years guarantee. At work till about 10 at night; then supper & bed.

Wednesday 19 March 1873 Rose at 8.15. Work all day. Bought Mitchelet’s [sic] Priests, Women &c for 1/-.

Had a talk with Ferguson (Secretary of Liberal Registration Association) this evening—found fault with an appointment they were contemplating in the person of Mr T Coulthard who is a Puritanical political, awfully conscientious “duffer”. Finished work about 8. Upstairs, had a glass or two of beer; a pipe, a read, supper & to bed.

Thursday 20 March 1873 Working all day till 8 at night. Nothing special to-day. My wife about all right.

Friday 21 March 1873 Working from about 8—shop, leader writing &c—till 1.35 on Saturday morning.

Saturday 22 March 1873 Up at 6.30; attending shop main part of day. Finished work at about 10 at night.

Sunday 23 March 1873 In bed till 10.30; in afternoon cutting out pieces from Notes & Queries. In evening I, wife & daughter Florence to St Walburge’s Catholic Church; the new sanctuary there being opened to-day. It is a very spacious sanctuary; but the altar is too elongated, or rather too thin. Music good. This is a fine place of worship; but the roof is too gloomy.

56 See 21 October 1872.
57 See 30 September 1865.
58 See 23 August 1872.
Monday 24 March 1873 Up at 8 o’clock. In forenoon I went to Mr T. Yates,\(^{59}\) Friargate & bought a silver pencil case for 6/-.
In afternoon I called upon Pateson,\(^*\) photographer, Cross St[ree]t, to see how he was getting on with Tyldesley Diary pictures. Called with him at Dr Shepherd’s library, in Cross St[ree]t, looked at Baines’s History of Lancashire. Found it mutilated—some fool or scoundrel having cut out the portrait of Sir Thos Tyldesley. Afterwards I & wife went to Alston College, near Longridge. I had some financial business there with Rev T A Peters,\(^*\) the headmaster & owner. Got tea, home by 7.15 train; worked till 9.45; some beer; supper; a pipe; bed about 10.30.

Tuesday 25 March 1873 Looking after Pateson,\(^*\) photographer, who is photographing some sketches &c for Tyldesley’s Diary. In evening directing some application franks\(^{60}\) to members of Chetham Society\(^{61}\) for Diary—at Dr Shepherd’s Library, Cross-st[ree]t.

Wednesday 26 March 1873 Knocking about & working all day. Mainly employed in sending off country a/cs [accounts]. At work till about 10 at night.

Thursday 27 March 1873 Throng all day in shop &c. Sent a rather cajoling letter to Secretary of Preston Public Hall Company who have bought the shop I am in & four others adjoining,\(^{62}\) for some compensation—I having been compelled to leave this place, take Ferguson’s shop & stock, the latter of which I do not want, & to rent an office in Cannon St[ree]t, since last November, through their action. This company, composed mainly of gentlemen, has so far been foolishly & badly managed.

Friday 28 March 1873 In office, shop &c all day. The secretary of the Public Hall Co told me the company could give me no compensation. I hardly expected any. Finished work early; but could not get to bed till late.

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\(^{59}\) Thomas Yates (1812–1890), jeweller, Fellow of the Society of Arts, Methodist teetotaller (LDP, 28 February 1890, p. 3).

\(^{60}\) Probably printed forms, for subscription copies of the Tyldesley Diary.

\(^{61}\) Antiquarian society covering Lancashire and Cheshire.

\(^{62}\) This company planned to build a hall on land between Fishergate, Cannon St and Cross St, but the hall was never built.
Saturday 29 March 1873 To bed at 2 in morning; up at 10. To-day’s Chronicle contained a more remunerative class of advertisements than during any other week since my purchase of it in March 1868. At night Bakewell* & Pateson* called & we had a pint of beer each, in my back shop. To-bed about 12 o’clock.

Sunday 30 March 1873 Up at 9; in afternoon had a walk into Avenham Park with my wife & daughter Florence; home, read portion of Montaigne’s Essays; tea; played with my two lads at marbles; then directed some circular applications for Tyldesley’s Diary.

Monday 31 March 1873 In office & shop all day nearly. Arranged to have a valuer for Ferguson’s stock. Began shifting to Cannon Street. Gave Mills, my foreman, notice to leave.

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63 Probably refers to two and a half columns of auction adverts on front page and five columns of public notices on p. 4.
64 See 17 March 1867.
65 Appeals for subscriptions, a type of crowd-funding. Some of the more impressive subscribers are listed at the back of the published book.
66 Mills had only arrived a few months before. See 16 December 1872.
April

Tuesday 1 April 1873 To-day Ferguson thought he did not require a valuer, so I thought I needed none. At work till about 8.30.

Wednesday 2 April 1873 Shop & office work. Sister-in-law Mary Overend* returned to-day from Morecambe, on her way to her home in Harwich.

Thursday 3 April 1873 News in this morning’s papers of wreck of steamship Atlantic off Halifax; about 540 persons drowned. At 11.30 this forenoon I went to report annual adjourned session of County Magistrates at Preston Court House. Mr T B Addison* who is about 84 years old occupied the chair, in the absence of Lord Derby. An important discussion on expenditure upon the County Lunatic Asylums, raised by Mr W Howitt* of Preston & Mr Bleckley* of Warrington. Cost of asylums was said to be about £150,000 a year; & at three of them nearly 100,000 gallons of ale & beer are consumed. Not so well myself—nervous & delusive. In afternoon John Cooper* & W Howitt called on me respecting asylum expenditure.

Friday 4 April 1873 Up at 8 o’clock; working hard till 10.30 at night—writing. Finished general office work about 2 o’clock. Gillett shoemaker, Fishergate, buried to-day.

Saturday 5 April 1873 Up about 10, got second edition ready; was disappointed with my book binder who ought to have had some copies of Tyldesley’s Diary ready to-day. Well to-day. Finished work about 10.20 at night; supper; bed 11.50 pm

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67 See 21 October 1872, 3 and 27 March 1873.
68 The RMS Atlantic, sailing from Liverpool to New York City, hit rocks off Halifax, Nova Scotia on 1 April.
69 See 19 June 1866.
70 Henry Bleckley (1813–1890), former mayor of Warrington, Poor Law Guardian, magistrate, head of Pearson & Knowles, coal and iron company (Manchester Times, 25 January 1890, p. 5).
71 Two days after Hewitson’s conversation with Howitt and Cooper, he published a long leading article supporting Howitt’s views on asylum spending.
72 Thomas Gillett (1814–1873).
73 The diary was advertised in the Chronicle for the rest of the year, suggesting disappointing sales. The Manchester Guardian gave it a lukewarm review: ‘this
Sunday 6 April 1873 Rose at 9.40 this morning; early in afternoon I, wife & daughter Florence rode out in a gig intending to go to Woodplumpton; but when we had got to top of Ashton Brow a very heavy storm of hail & rain set in so we returned. Later on I & wife had a walk down Fishergate into Miller & Avenham Parks; more hail &c; home; in evening went out for a short time—beautiful night; supper about 9.15; a pipe; bed.

Monday 7 April 1873 We began moving type, machinery &c today from 24½ Fishergate to Cannon Street premises. Some of the type we removed last week; but this week we had to go into the affair properly.

Tuesday 8 April 1873 Going on with removal.

Wednesday 9 April 1873 Same

Thursday 10 April 1873 Same today. Found a fault in one of boiler plates, & was told by Foster it would cost £10 or £15 to repair it. This astounded me & I resolved to have a new & larger boiler rather than spend such a sum on a small 5 year old one. At night went with two friends to make enquiries about a boiler, & we had a pint of beer each at Regatta Inn, bottom of Fishergate. Did not meet with any success.

Good Friday 11 April 1873 This afternoon I & one of my reporters to Preston Court House; the Rev C Benzing (late curate of Preston Parish Ch[urch]) appealing against a bastardy order made upon him some weeks ago by the borough bench. He disappeared before the case was over. The order against him was confirmed. At work in Cannon Street office till 3 in morning (Sat[urday]). Machinery &c went on satisfactory. My brother William,* reporter, at Wigan here all night.

Saturday 12 April 1873 Working all day till late at night. My mother* & brother Robert74 called to day on their way to Blackburn. Sold two pictures at cost price (a shame) to my father-in-law* at Morecambe.

Sunday 13 April 1873 Up at 10. In af[ternoon] I & wife to Alston College on invitation of principal—Rev T A Peters.* Then to Hermitage

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original diary, confined almost exclusively to personal and private affairs, does not contain sufficient of public interest to merit the talent and cost bestowed upon its publication’ (26 November 1873, p. 7).

74 Robert Hewitson (1854–1917).
Grimsargh which he has bought for a preparatory school. Home at 9.30 in Mr Peters’s carriage. Fine cold night. Supper; pipe; bed.

**Easter Monday 14 April 1873** Began taking Ferguson’s stock at shop 125 Fishergate, Preston—to-day along with my wife & kept at it till about 10 at night. My mother* & brother Robert* called to day on their way from Blackburn to home at Lancaster. Many drunken men in streets to-day.

**Tuesday 15 April 1873** Doing same to-day; my wife mainly engaged—I at old shop 24½ Fishergate; at work till 10 o’c[lok]k—finished taking stock at Ferguson’s.

**Wednesday 16 April 1873** My wife began in our own right at Ferguson’s shop this morning—I at old shop. This afternoon Ferguson told me that goods in his shop which we had taken came to £308 odd—I have yet to add up the items.

**Thursday 17 April 1873** My wife at new shop (Ferguson’s) & I at old one. A collision to-day near German’s Bridge; close to Preston Railway Station between a passenger & a goods train. Ten persons reported on list of injured. Sent off particulars of same to many newspapers.

**Friday 18 April 1873** Up (out of bed) about 8; working till 11 o’c[lok]k at night. Left new office, in Cannon street, at 11.25; to bed about 11.30.

**Saturday 19 April 1873** Up at 6.15 this morning & in shop working till 10.10 at night. My wife at new shop all day. Read part of a lecture by Dr Carpenter;**75** supper; pipe; bed.

**Sunday 20 April 1873** Rose at 9 o’c[lok]k; breakfast; looked after my two lads; read “Tin Trumpet” & was edified by it; had a spell of ridiculous melancholy; dinner; then off with my wife & two boys—Bertie & Horace—in a 4-wheeled conveyance to Woodplumpton; saw a friend at Tabley Arms, Bartle; had 2 glasses of beer; at Woodplumpton had another; looked into church yard at Meg “Shelton’s” stone**76** &c & explained same to my lads; then round by Newsham—called at

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75 Possibly a lecture by naturalist and polymath William Benjamin Carpenter (1813–1885), who had no time for phrenology nor spiritualism (ODNB).

76 Meg Shelton or Margery Hilton (d. 1705) was said to be a witch, and her grave in St Anne’s churchyard, Woodplumpton is marked by a boulder. Legend has it that she
Newsham House, inquired about health of Mr John Hawkins* who lives there & found he was very ill; on towards Preston; overtook Alderman John Rawcliffe,* of Prospect House, Broughton, leaving Broughton Church. We all had tea at his house & stayed till about 9 at night; home at 9.40; supper; bed.

**Monday 21 April 1873** Began removing shop goods &c to-day to new shop, 125, Fishergate.

**Tuesday 22 April 1873** Throng sorting goods in new shop

**Wednesday 23 April 1873** Same & not well—nervous & melancholy about nothing.

**Thursday 24 April 1873** Ditto

**Friday 25 April 1873** Ditto—sorting goods &c in shop till about 6 in evening; then went to new office in Cannon Street & remained there writing till about 9.30. Supper; back to office where I stayed till 12.45.

**Saturday 26 April 1873** Up at 6.10 & in shop afterwards, serving papers. In the afternoon brother-in-law Edward Overend* & his wife Mary* came from Harwich on their way to Morecambe or Barrow. I throng all day. Chronicles did not sell so well. Supper about 11; bed. John Hawkins* of Newsham House died early this morning, aged 82.

**Sunday 27 April 1873** Up at 10 o’clock & about 11 o’clock went & had a Turkish bath which did me much good. In afternoon read a part of Dr Spurzheim’s Catechism of the Laws of Nature. In evening I & brother-in-law Overend* had a walk through Avenham & Miller Parks & round by Ribble Side. Many young people out & all enjoying themselves. Returned home afterwards & spent the remainder of evening in quiet, homely chat. To bed about 10.45.

**Monday 28 April 1873** Rose at 7 o’clock & made fire downstairs & in nursery. Nervous & melancholy—wonderfully daft—nearly all day.

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reappeared several times after death so was re-buried face down in a vertical grave, with the boulder on top.

77 Johann Spurzheim, *A Philosophical Catechism on the Laws of Man* (1826), phrenological view of philosophy and psychology, in Q&A format.
In afternoon I & Overend went to Allsupp’s* Yard, Strand Road & to a friend’s to see if there was a marine engineer’s situation vacant. In evening he & wife went on to Morecambe. Bed about 10.30.

**Tuesday 29 April 1873** Throng lifting boxes &c out of cellar &c into other places & felt at night as if I was going to have an attack of what is called lumbago.

**Wednesday 30 April 1873** Working all day; but bad in my back.
May

Thursday 1 May 1873 Very bad in my back & had to be helped out of bed & down stairs. Wrote stray notes all day. Very uncomfortable & in much pain.

Friday 2 May 1873 Writing in office house all day; very bad in my back.

Saturday 3 May 1873 By myself—back still bad—in house reading. Servant Ellen came to-night.

Sunday 4 May 1873 Back somewhat better. Reading; in evening Pateson* & Bakewell* came & had a glass or two & a chat.

Monday 5 May 1873 Paid rent of Cannon St[ree]t property to-day; & also rent of old premises I have left. In evening went with my wife to the Theatre to see an amateur performance on behalf of charities of the town.78 Fashionable house;79 performances pretty good; got home shortly after 11 o’clock at night. To-day I got a piano from Norwood.80 His terms are—if lent 2/6 per week; if bought £25. Good toned instrument, but it has been abused.

Tuesday 6 May 1873 At work in shop all morning. In afternoon I & brother-in-law Joe* took a gig & went round by Longton, Hoole, Croston & Leyland with some posters about cucumber paper.81 Joe put them up here & there. Day showery; a beautiful double rainbow visible when we were between Hoole Bar & Bretherton. Never scarcely seen such a sight. Had tea Leyland; home at 8.25.

Wednesday 7 May 1873 Up about 8 this morning; nearly better of my backache. In shop all day.

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78 The amateur performance included Frederick Hay’s Larkins’s Love-Letters, whose cast featured the characters Bobbins, a young man with a weak digestion, and Colonel Bubbleson Boyleover.

79 Audience.

80 Jasper Norwood (c. 1824–1898), band master, ‘eminently arranger of music for military bands’, concert promoter, he had a shop on Fishergate selling pianos and sheet music. Conservative (LDP, 19 July 1898, p. 3).

81 These were market gardening districts. The paper, painted with boiled linseed oil, protected cucumber from wind, rain, frost and sun (Gardener’s Chronicle, 5 April 1879, p. 440).
Thursday 8 May 1873 Marking paper in afternoon—felt much better; but troubled with an inquisitive, block-headed, damnable melancholy. Jim Hibbert, architect, called on me this afternoon & left a “Stray Note” for Saturday’s paper on Belvedere just pulled down in Miller Park to make way for Derby Memorial Statue. In the evening writing—till 10.15.

Friday 9 May 1873 Busy all day—till 2 o’clock on Saturday morning.

Saturday 10 May 1873 Busy in shop & works all day; at night, about 10.30 Bob Pateson,* photographer came; & (over three glasses of beer each) we discussed trades unionism—I opposing & he defending it—till one o’clock in morning. Afterwards, for half an hour we talked & read about religion.

Sunday 11 May 1873 Rose at 9; read Carpenter on Epidemic Delusions till about noon. In afternoon Pateson* & Bakewell* came; we talked, read till 4; B then left & P had tea; then B returned & we read about Spectrum analysis & conversed till 10. Afterwards we went to Cook’s Observatory on south side of town & had a look through a new telescope at Saturn & the Moon.

Monday 12 May 1873 Up at 8. In shop all day nearly. At night took my daughter Florence to see Hamilton’s Panorama at Corn Exchange.

Tuesday 13 May 1873 This forenoon took my two sons Bertie & Horace to see the launch of a new iron steamer at Allsup’s* Yard, Strand Road. They remained in yard—Bertie apparently vexed—till I went on board.

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82 James Hibbert (1831–1903), architect, councillor, later alderman and mayor (1880–1881). Preston born and bred, his greatest achievement was the design of the town’s Harris Library and Museum, now a Grade I listed building, described by Pevsner as ‘one of the most remarkable Victorian public buildings of Northern England’.

83 Money had been raised for a statue honouring Edward George Geoffrey Smith Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby (1799–1869), three-time Conservative Prime Minister, briefly a Preston MP, and local landowner.

84 Possibly the observatory built for R.G. Watson* and the telescope made by James Cook (b. 1830), ‘night soil contractor and general scavenger’, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, of Oxford St (PC 21 June 1879, p. 6; PH 13 October 1888, p. 6).

85 William Benjamin Carpenter, Epidemic Delusions: A Lecture (Manchester: John Heywood, 1871) included an attack on spiritualism.

86 See 27 August 1866.
Met Mr John Hogg JP on board; had a long chat with him; we remained on board till after vessel was launched. She was called Sir Francis Drake & intended for Plymouth.  

**Wednesday 14 May 1873** Working all day in shop & office.  

**Thursday 15 May 1873** The same to-day. This afternoon some troops of Duke of Lancaster’s Yeomanry Cavalry, from South Lancashire arrived in town & stayed all night en route for Lancaster for their annual training, along I think with an Oversands troop. The Yeomanry Cavalry I hold to be a perfectly antiquated & useless military force; but then they circulate money & to that extent there is a “soul of goodness in things evil”. In the evening I was throng writing till about 10.30. I omitted to say that in afternoon I was out soliciting advertisements.  

**Friday 16 May 1873** In shop during forenoon; in office remainder of day till 12 at night. A read, a pipe, a glass & to bed—PS This morning—after a five years’ cessation—I resumed cold bath—using the sponge instead of the shower valve.  

**Saturday 17 May 1873** Working all day from 9 in morning till 10.20 at night.  

**Sunday 18 May 1873** Reading Hudson Tuttle on Religious Ideas & Carpenter on Unconscious Cerebration. In evening went to Pole Street Baptist Chapel to hear Rev F Bugby, formerly of Fishergate Baptist Chapel, preach. His sermon was excellent in style, but orthodox & antiquated in sentiment & argument. Home afterwards; to bed about 11 o’c[lok]k.
Monday 19 May 1873 Up at 8. Weather very cold to-day as it has been for several days. Discharged one of my servants—Ellen, a conceited idle slut, from Liverpool—to-day. In evening went to Pateson’s & told him about some work he had to do in photographing. To-night Ellen returned with her sister, & having no place to go to we gave her supper & found her a bed on understanding she must go in morning & that I would give her a week’s wages.

Tuesday 20 May 1873 Working in shop all day. About 12 to-night a fire broke out & destroyed (it is said) property worth about £3000 at shop of late John Woods’s son, tobacconist, Old Shambles. I & wife went to bed about 11 & did not hear anything of it.

Wednesday 21 May 1873 Much talk to-day about the giving up of idea to have a torchlight procession on Whit Tuesday evening in honour of unveiling of late Lord Derby’s statue on that day; but there is a strong feeling in town that the executive committee are bungling damnably in the general affair.

Thursday 22 May 1873 Working in shop nearly all day except a little in morning when I had a dip into John Stuart Mill’s work on Utilitarianism. About 10 at night young George Dixon, clerk to our Union came to my house & gave me some particulars of a séance (Spiritual) he had attended on Tuesday night in Glover Street, & how he found out the “medium”, a late Liverpool sailor named Eades to be an imposter. This Spiritual business, in the shape of Spiritualism is over-riding common sense, & delivering people into all sorts of absurdities. To-day young Woods, tobacconist went into shop I left in Fishergate. My charge for fixtures is 5/- per week.

Friday 23 May 1873 In shop till about 11; then engaged in office, leading article writing &c till night. To bed at about 1.30 on Saturday morning.

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94 See 3 May.
96 Mill had died on 7 May.
97 George Dixon (1849–1890), clerk to the Poor Law Guardians, drank himself to death a few days after a government inquiry into his poor performance in his job (LDP, 24 February 1890, p. 3).
98 Unidentified.
99 Possibly John Woods junior (1851–1892), younger son of John Woods senior.
Saturday 24 May 1873 Rose at 6.30 this morning (and engaged in shop & office till 10 at night). A grand review today on Marsh in honour of Queen’s birthday, which was, I think a few days back.  

Sunday 25 May 1873 Reading this forenoon Rev J. G. Wood on Curiosities & Anecdotes of Animal Life. In afternoon I, wife, Florence, Ethelbert, Horace & Ada went in a conveyance to Inglewhite & had tea at Green Man there. Showery when we returned. Came in about an hour from Inglewhite which is 8 miles from Preston. Felt well—better than for some time. Bed about 11.

Monday 26 May 1873 Rose at 8.20. In shop assorting things nearly all day. Felt much better to day & am gradually, clearly & permanently I hope & think, returning to what Emerson calls “Nature & Faith”. In evening Bakewell* & Duthie (Local B[oard] of Health foreman, the latter) came & a keen discussion on an application for increase of salary of Duthie took place. To bed about 11 o’clock—not later.

Tuesday 27 May 1873 Working in office.

Wednesday 28 May 1873 Same

Thursday 29 May 1873 Ditto

Friday 30 May 1873 Ditto in morning; & afterwards till about 12 at night writing at office.

Saturday 31 May 1873 Up at 6 & working in shop & office till 10.10 at night.

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100 Victoria was born 24 May 1819.
102 See 30 November 1872.
103 Hewitson had written in support of Duthie’s application in the 24 May Chronicle.
June

**Sunday 1 June 1873** In house reading Mill’s Utilitarianism till dinner; afterwards with wife to France’s;* with France to Miller Park & had a view of the veiled statue of late Lord Derby. Returned to Frances; tea; then looked through Orchard & called at Plumption Brook.* Returned to France’s & stayed till 10.30. My mother* & brother Robert* came to-night.

**Whit Monday 2 June 1873** A great day in Preston. All classes in the streets—Whitsuntiding. Procession of Roman Catholic Guilds in forenoon. In afternoon a procession of Oddfellows. During evening I, Will France* & several others went into “Orchard” & had some fun at shooting galleries. I was second best shot. Then called at Castle Inn, had a glass, went to France’s & stayed there discussing & talking till after midnight.

**Tuesday 3 June 1873** A greater day in Preston. At one in afternoon the Lancashire Memorial Statue to late Lord Derby, in Miller Park, was unveiled by Col. Wilson Patten.* An immense gathering of people & the proceedings very inspiring & demonstrative; but the great bulk were Church of England parsons & Conservatives—this turning the affair into a directly & most oppressively exclusive political demonstration. After unveiling there was a luncheon in Town Hall, to chief visitors. Lord Derby made a thoughtful speech regarding utility of the House of Lords & it was the best utterance of the day. I throng telegraphing to newspapers in evening. Afterwards had a pint of beer with Bernard Bussey* reporter for Standard.

**Wednesday 4 June 1873** Working nearly all day in shop. At night had a pint of beer at Shelly’s [sic] Arms. Home at 9.40; made up diary; supper; bed.

**Thursday 5 June 1873** At 9.3 [sic] this morning went to Bolton to give a description of Royal progress—Prince & Princess of Wales—through the town to Town Hall.104 A splendid demonstration of loyalty—at any rate of its manifestation in the customary manner. The prince seemed to be a

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104 The royal visitors were officially opening the new town hall.
sleek, heavy, easy-minded fat & complacent young man; the Princess a
delicate, thin-featured modest woman. I described the progress for the
Bolton Guardian; wrote out account between 3.15 & 8.7 pm. Of course I
had to be paid for it. Home at 9.50. Travelled in 2d class; some soldiers &
a collier lad (in the carriage) began fighting soon after we left Bolton & at
first stopping place I got out & rode home in a 1st class carriage.

Friday 6 June 1873 Working from 8.30 this morning to 2 on Saturday
morning. My mother* staying here since Sunday night went back (to
Lancaster) to-day.

Saturday 7 June 1873 Rose at 5.40. Working in shop & office till 10 at
night.

Sunday 8 June 1873 Rose at 10.10; read a lecture by Dr Carpenter on
Egypt & part of another lecture on Kent's Cavern.105 In evening Salter (a
printer on Sheffield Telegraph & formerly a workman of mine106) came
with his wife107 & child & had tea & supper.

Monday 9 June 1873 In & about shop most part of day. In evening I &
wife had a walk into Miller Park & examined Derby Memorial Statue.
We found fault with it in two places—right leg too far out & too wide
from the other & right hand holding what should be a roll of documents
or a petition or a newspaper but which seems like the end of his coat tail.

Tuesday 10 June 1873 Rose about 8. In afternoon went on business to
Alston College. Bought Paine's Rights of Man108 at a second hand book
shop on returning. At night Ned Ambler,* printer, & Sam Andrew109
lawyer's clerk came to my house & we had sundry pints of bottled
beer; the occasion being the wind up of our hard & remarkable work in

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105 Probably 'Ancient and Modern Egypt; or, the Pyramids and the Suez Canal' by
William Benjamin Carpenter and 'Kent's Cavern' about the cave near Torquay by
William Pengelly, both published in Science Lectures for the People: Science Lectures
Delivered in Manchester (1873).
106 See 20 July 1872.
107 Mary Salter (b. 1839).
108 A defence of the French Revolution published in 1791–92, an almost sacred text
among political radicals.
109 See 25 September 1872.
connection with the German* Testimonial. Heard cuckoo first time this year today.

**Wednesday 11 June 1873** Out of bed about 8 this morning. In shop all morning. In afternoon making out advertisements; in evening bought some books; at night went with my wife to a drapery sale. Home at 9.30; bed at 10.30.

**Thursday 12 June 1873** In shop main of day. [sic] My wife ill; telegraphed for my mother* to come from Lancaster she arrived in evening. Very wet.

**Friday 13 June 1873** In shop & office all day. In office at night till 2 in morning writing & reading proofs.

**Saturday 14 June 1873** Serving customers in shop all day. Finished about 10.10 at night.

**Sunday 15 June 1873** Up in good time; finished reading Mills “Utilitarianism.” My two lads & two daughters with servants went to cemetery to see my three daughters’ grave. In evening I went to Pateson’s* in Cross St[ree]t & had a pipe & a glass. Home at 9.50; a pipe & glass & bed.

**Monday 16 June 1873** This forenoon went to Fleetwood on invitation from Captain Jameson\(^{110}\) so as to give a description of the new dock which is being commenced there. Had a walk on beach—very pleasant; then went with Jameson to inspect the dock works, just begun. Then crossed through fields & over hedges to his house—a beautiful little place on south west side of Fleetwood; half a mile off; got dinner; had a glass & a half of whiskey on lawn with Captain; then to station; too late for train, so went to inspect Belfast steamboats lying alongside the quay; fine craft. After[war]ds called at Crown, had a brandy; then to station & home.

**Tuesday 17 June 1873** In shop making out bills main part of day.

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\(^{110}\) Civil engineer John May Jameson (b. 1831) of ‘Warrenhurst’, steward of the Fleetwood estate.
Wednesday 18 June 1873 Up at 8; had cold sponge bath as usual. At noon went to Joe Ware’s,* Church Hotel, Lancaster Road; he paid me a bill; home to dinner at 1.35; after dinner Jim Hibbert,* architect called & we went (at his request) down to Victoria Hotel where we had some claret & lemonade & then he had a glass of brandy & I one of gin. In evening I was told that friend Pateson* was ill; went to him; found him in bed—desponding, comparatively out of his mind—quite broken down. In evening called again, along with friend Bakewell*. I broke the ice to Pateson—(he is in pecuniary difficulties) said he must get better as fast as possible; that I knew his position; & that when he was well his affairs should be squared up & made more comfortable to himself. This seemed to cheer him. Home.

Thursday 19 June 1873 [blank]

Friday 20 June 1873 In shop till afternoon; then in office till 2 in morning, writing &c

Saturday 21 June 1873 Up at 5.45 this morning to attend to sale of Chronicles &c in shop. And so engaged till night. Had a pint of beer with Will France;* home; supper; bed.

Sunday 22 June 1873 Reading scientific & other works. In afternoon taught my children their catechism. In evening went with Bakewell* to see Pateson,* who was considerably better; but still defective in energy, contemplative & rather mopish, through weakness. Home at nine; supper; bed.

Monday 23 June 1873 Working in office main part of day.

Tuesday 24 June 1873 Shop work in morning; in afternoon writing out particulars of my visit to Fleetwood on Monday 16th.111 At night had a walk with my wife & mother* into Miller Park. On the way we called at my printing office & they looked through it.

Wednesday 25 June 1873 At 11.25 this morning set off collecting newspaper a/cs [accounts]—to Kirkham then to Fleetwood; then returned & got off at Poulton, calling at Smith’s112 in Market Place where

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111 ‘A run down to Fleetwood’ was bylined ‘By an old Rambler’ (PC, 28 June 1873, p. 3).
112 Presumably a bookseller.
I got an a/c [account] & bought for 1/2 a book containing selections from Junius.\(^{113}\) Afterwards went to Blackpool. Got an a/c [account] there, had a walk on the old pier—very breezy & healthy; few folk in Blackpool. At 5.15 went, by coastline to Lytham, & had during this part of journey, the company of Parson Brown\(^{114}\) of Trinity Church, Preston. Got two a/cs [accounts] at Lytham; had a glass of beer; ate a pie on the beach; home by 6.35 train & landed in Preston at 7.30. Afterwards working—in the ledgers & writing letters till about 10.30.

**Thursday 26 June 1873** At 11.30 this morning went to Annual General Sessions, at Preston Court House. Not long; wrote out for other papers & my own; at night marking paper. Mr Jas Thomson of Wray,\(^{115}\) near Hornby, called to see us today. He is a county magistrate.

**Friday 27 June 1873** My wife confined this morning—about 10.30 I think—of a lad. He is not in a very promising condition; but quickly mended up. I think we shall call him Julius. Both my wife & child doing well in afternoon. Finished work at office at 1.5 in morning. P.S. We called the young stranger Llewellyn.

**Saturday 28 June 1873** In shop at 6.30 this morning & continued at it till 10 at night. This evening Jim Kenyon,* sent to Lancaster Asylum on 1\(^{st}\) March last paid me a visit. He has been released cured; but he seems a bit religiously flighty & smelled of drink.

**Sunday 29 June 1873** Up at 10.40; breakfast; then up stairs & kept my wife company; in afternoon ditto & reading.

**Monday 30 June 1873** In shop all day; at night we had Will France* & his wife* who came to see my wife; afterwards France & I had some beer. To bed about 11 o’c[loc]k.

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113 The letters of ‘Junius’ were anonymous open letters critical of George III’s government, published as a book in 1772.

114 See 8 August 1867.

115 James Thomson (1807–1885), anti-Corn Law campaigner and Liberal, in Preston for the meeting of the county magistrates, probably knew Hewitson from his apprentice days in Lancaster.
July

Tuesday 1 July 1873 In shop all day making out accounts

Wednesday 2 July 1873 Ditto. To-day Woods finished with my shop fixtures at old shop.\textsuperscript{116}

Thursday 3 July 1873 Ditto. In evening went with Dr Ridley\textsuperscript{117} to a house in Oak Street & there saw the damnable effects of syphilis—a little child covered nearly all over with eruptions. It was an illegitimate; its father being a soldier. Working till 11 o’c[lok]k.

Friday 4 July 1873 In shop all day again, till ab[ou]t nine when I went down to my printing office & worked till 12; then home & to bed.

Saturday 5 July 1873 Up & in shop to sell papers by 6 o’c[lok]k. A larger no. of sales by auction in to-day’s Chronicle than I ever remember. Finished work at about ten. This evening my mother* went home again to Lancaster.

Sunday 6 July 1873 Rose at 10.20; had a sponge bath; then breakfast. In afternoon had a sit with my wife in front room & a read from Wilmott’s Pleasures of Literature.\textsuperscript{118} In evening had a ramble in Avenham Park &c in search of my son Horace who had left my other children during their walk. He turned up in my absence.

Monday 7 July 1873 Rose about 8; did not feel so well—sore throat & achy; at night, 8.30 went to Singleton’s Turkish bath in Grimshaw St[ree]t; remained in it by myself till 10; then, whilst cooling down had a glass of beer. Home at 10.30.

Tuesday 8 July 1873 Working in office shop all day; considerably better. All flat in town & in country too.

\textsuperscript{116} See 22 May.
\textsuperscript{117} Dr Joseph Simpson Ridley (c.1834–1886) of Lune St, medical officer of the Fulwood Union workhouse and its hospital, plus his private practice, ‘to the poor he was always just and kind … though a stern moralist’. Financial problems left his family impoverished, and the \textit{British Medical Journal} appealed for funds to help them \textit{(BMJ}, quoted in \textit{PH}, 3 July 1886, p. 2).
\textsuperscript{118} Robert Wilmott, \textit{Pleasures, objects and advantages of literature: a discourse} (1851).
Wednesday 9 July 1873 Ditto on the whole. Paid my first subscription to-day to Preston & Duchy of Lancaster Permanent Building Society—J Andrew,\textsuperscript{119} Winckley St[ree]t, secretary. I have taken five shares, representing £50.

Thursday 10 July 1873 and same to-day. Had a desk & screen put up at end of shop to-day.

Friday 11 July 1873 In shop all day till nine at night & then to office, where I remained till 11; then home & to bed.

Saturday 12 July 1873 Up at six this morning. A capital Chronicle to-day for advertisements—more sales by auction than I ever have had. I am prospering in business satisfying [sic]; it is due to an adherence to God’s laws regulating industry & economy; to my own exertions & to those of my wife. Some thunder & rain to-day & at 8.10 this evening I saw part of a rainbow. Finished work at 10 at night. To bed about 11.

Sunday 13 July 1873 Rose at 10.20. In afternoon read to my lads Bertie & Horace some natural history anecdotes. Afterwards I finished a work on literature by Rev R A Willmott—an excellent book. In evening had a little of beer & a pipe & looked through front window watching people come from church & chapel. There seemed to be much pride & vanity amongst them—extravagance sadly out of harmony with Christianity & opposed to common sense.

Monday 14 July 1873 Out of bed about 8. Didn’t have a cold bath this morning. In shop till 11; then to an arbitration case—Richard Cookson (Layton Hawes) v. Preston British Loan & Discount Co—at Longworth & Gardner’s office, Chapel-st[reet]. Case about some machinery &c at Blackpool belonging to late Mr Carlyle, contractor, or rented by him from Cookson. Reported till 1.10; home; dinner; got my hair cut & was shampooed; to case again; till 2.50; [word]; bought a Robinson Crusoe & Gibbon’s Decline & Fall; in shop afterwards; at night had some beer at home & a glass at Shelley Arms; to home at 9.45; supper; bed.

\textsuperscript{119} James Andrew (b. 1840), land and estate agent of Winckley St, became a Liberal councillor in November 1873.
Tuesday 15 July 1873 Up at 8. Went to Preston branch of Lancaster Bank—I bank here—& found I had a balance of upwards of £270. Today registered my latest born son with the registrar in Lord Street—Mr H Bradley. I gave him the name of Llewellyn. God bless him. In evening—after shop was shut went up stairs to my wife & read an American newspaper & afterwards several pages of Sylvester Graham’s lectures on the Human Constitution. Supper afterwards; bed about 11.

Wednesday 16 July 1873 Up at 8. In afternoon went to see about some velvet for my sons Bert & Horace’s suits to Joe Wares & had a glass of porter. In evening paid Will Dobson last sum of money I owed him in respect to Chronicle—about £109. Working till 10.50 pm.

Thursday 17 July 1873 At 8 this morning went with a number of Conservatives to Windermere—an excursion. We branched off at Carnforth, then on to Ulverston; then branched back to the Lake Side Station near Newby Bridge. Afterwards sailed up Windermere to Ambleside where we had something to eat then back—to Bowness, where there was “Poet Close” —a middle-aged, sun-burned, garrulous fellow, smoking a short pipe & selling “his books”’. I bought one—a medley of rigmarole & doggerel personality—for 1/6. Afterwards we went to Rigg’s Hotel at Braithwaite & had dinner at 4 o’clock. A capital dinner. Had lots to eat & some sherry, champagne & a glass of gin. Returned, by Kendal, at 6.20. Had to stay at Oxenholme about an hour. Got to Lancaster about 9; here I & friend Bakewell got out—we had come by an earlier train than the bulk—and sauntered into Lancaster having a look at its castle & tasting its ale & pies. Got to Preston about 11; did a little work; to bed about 12.

120 Henry Bradley (1809–1882), founder member of Preston Temperance Society.
121 Lectures on the Science of Human Life, first published in 1839. Graham was an American Presbyterian minister who promoted vegetarianism, temperance and wholemeal bread.
122 John Close (1816–1891), the self-titled ‘Poet Close’, known more for his character than his poetry. In 1860 his relentless versifying at the great and the good produced a £50 Civil List pension, withdrawn the following year after criticism in the London newspapers, mockery in Punch and questions in Parliament (LDP, 22 December 1937).
123 Hewitson’s humorous account of the trip in the Chronicle defensibly explains why a Liberal newspaperman might join a Conservative pleasure trip.
**Friday 18 July 1873** Not very well this morning “Heigh John Barleycorn—Oh John Barleycorn”. But working all day from 9 in morning till 12 at night.

**Saturday 19 July 1873** Up at 6.15. Working in shop till 10 at night. Councillor J Edelston* had a long sit with me—from about 9 to 10.

**Sunday 20 July 1873** Rose at 10.15. After dinner took four of my children—Bertie, Horace, Florence & Ada—to Longridge* by train. Went up “Tootel’s Height”. View splendid—expansive, beautiful. Home about 5. Afterwards—when tea was over—read part of “Sermon on the Mount” to my children; then read to myself a treatise by Dr Watson Bradshaw on “Brain & Stomach” & the importance of avoiding dyspepsia.124 To bed about 12. France* came in & kept us up.

**Monday 21 July 1873** Into shop to work, about 9, & in shop mainly all day. To-day my printers had their annual trip. They went to Blackpool. This has been the hottest day this year—a regular sweltering day. To bed about 10.

**Tuesday 22 July 1873** In shop all day. Slack day. Heard this morning that my wife’s sister Ellen* at Sheffield had been confined of a daughter on Saturday or Friday. Friday I believe. In evening my wife went to Longridge to seek lodgings for a week or two. Could only find one place at 30/- per week. In evening I read Hudson Tuttle on “The Christ Idea in History”.125 A tremendous storm of thunder & lightning between 8.30 & 10. Never saw such lightning.

**Wednesday 23 July 1873** Rose at 8.30; cold bath; shop at nine & remained therein all day. At 4.10 in afternoon my wife, with little child Llewellyn, Ada & Florey went to Morecambe. Shut up shop at 8.30; had a walk through park, on water side, up Fishergate & home at 10. To bed at 10.30.


Thursday 24 July 1873 In shop all day; at night had two or three glasses of ale with Will France;* & I do not believe they did me very much good.

Friday 25 July 1873 Had a letter from my wife (written by daughter Florence) this morning telling me to go down to Morecambe on Sunday, with Bert & Horace. At work till after midnight.

Saturday 26 July 1873 Up at 6; & working in shop till 10 at night. My lads have (been) doing nothing but talk about going to Morecambe.

Sunday 27 July 1873 To Morecambe with my two lads at 8.20. We had to walk on the shore side from Hest Bank to Morecambe. Found my wife & children well. In afternoon & evening went to the pier where my father in law* has a refreshment place. Had sundry drops of whiskey— contrary to my rule— & spent a pleasant intelligent evening.

Monday 28 July 1873 Remained at Morecambe to-day. A brother in law of mine called John Lord Rodgett* came out of hospital at Lancaster to-day. In afternoon I, my wife & our children had a beautiful sail on the Bay. We took Rodgett’s two children—Julia & Emily— with us. On returning spent remainder of day in enjoying myself & rambling about.

Tuesday 29 July 1873 About 11 this morning returned to Preston with my lads Bert & Horace. They asked me lots of questions about what they saw on the way. Got to Preston about 11.20. Then to County Court having cases against Robert Clarke,126 proprietor of the Pilot & one Miss Harrison127 of Hull. I won them easily; for my claim was admitted. In evening Bakewell* visited me & I drew up an address to be presented to J Crook.128

Wednesday 30 July 1873 To-day in shop nearly all the time from 9 to 8.30. After shop hours we went to Bull Inn—I & Bakewell*— & examined two addresses as specimens of penmanship & to be a guide in Crook’s affair. Crook has saved the lives of between 20 & 30 persons on the Ribble, & it has been decided to present him with a gold watch & guard &c & an

126 Robert Clarke (1823–1897), son of Lawrence Clarke, founder of the Tory Preston Pilot (1825–1888).
127 Unidentified.
128 John Crook senior (b.1831), landlord of the Pleasure Boat Inn, Ribbleside (near today’s Continental).
address. Recently a presentation was made to him by some Blackburn people. On leaving the Bull we went on to John Noblet’s,* Plumpton Brook Inn; my object being to enquire about a waiter for Morecambe pier. Met with no encouragement; had two glasses of ale; home; bed.

**Thursday 31 July 1873** Working in shop all day nearly till 10 at night. John Cooper* of the Oaks, Penwortham called on me & had a chat this aft[ernoo]n. Bed soon after 11 at night.
August

Friday 1 August 1873 Working in shop all day till 9.30 at night. Then to office & remained till after midnight. This was first day of Preston Agricultural Show, under new & much improved auspices. To bed about one.

Saturday 2 August 1873 Rose at 6.10 this morning. In shop till 10 at night. Whilst sitting down stairs Tom Knowles of London, formerly reporter & compositor of Preston gave me a call. He stopped till about one in morning. Then I went to bed. A sad railway accident at Wigan this morning.¹³⁰

Sunday 3 August 1873 Up at 10.10. In afternoon I & my two lads Bert & Horace to see our children’s grave at cemetery; afterwards into parks on south west of town. In evening reading.

Monday 4 August 1873 In shop all day. At night I & Bakewell* had a walk & about 10 called at Mitre Inn, Fishergate & saw a man bend a poker by striking it across his arm. To bed about 11.15.

Tuesday 5 August 1873 Shop all day. Prorogation of parliament¹³¹ this afternoon. In evening had a walk & afterwards called at Shelley Arms & had a glass of beer. Learned that the gate money—amount received for admission—at Preston Agricultural Show which closed on Saturday came to about £800. Home at 9.50; supper; made up diary; smoke; bed.

Wednesday 6 August 1873 This forenoon went to see Mr Thos Fair¹³² of the Lytham estate office respecting an article on Lytham he wants me to write for Illustrated London News. Found that he had gone to the opening of a new church at Heyhouses, about 3 miles off. I rode there in a cab. Stayed (for) the service. The Bishop of Manchester preached a

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¹²⁹ This could be the reporter, Thomas Knowles (b. 1828) of Preston, whose plea for bankruptcy was refused in 1856 (PC, 1 November 1856, p. 6).
¹³⁰ Part of the ‘Scotch Express’ derailed on its way north through Wigan station, smashing into the platform and station building, killing 11 passengers and injuring 25.
¹³¹ Formal ending of a Parliamentary session.
¹³² Thomas Fair (c. 1836–1914) of Clifton Hall, agent for the Clifton estate, which included Lytham.
good sermon. Returned to Lytham by train—the train from Blackpool staying opposite the church for us. Afterwards I & several reporters, with H Large,133 chemist of Lytham had an admirable luncheon, ordered by Mr Fair, at the Clifton Arms. Subsequently I had a warm salt water bath at the new baths.134 Home at 7.

**Thursday 7 August 1873** To railway accident inquest at Wigan this morning; home at noon. Went to report it mainly for Carlisle Journal.135

**Friday 8 August 1873** In shop writing principally till 9 at night. Supper. Stayed at office till 12 o’clock.

**Saturday 9 August 1873** Up at a quarter past 6; & in shop till 10 at night.

**Sunday 10 August 1873** This morning at 8.20 went to Morecambe to see my wife & children & bring them back. In afternoon I went on pier. A sea captain from Fleetwood drowned himself at Morecambe to-day.136 In evening I & wife went on the pier to father-in-laws* refreshment room. I had sundry squibs137 of gin. Had a chat with an old man called Maud. Came off pier at 10.10; supper; bed about 11.30.

**Monday 11 August 1873** This morning at 10 returned to Preston with my daughters Florence & Ada. The servant & my two lads Bert & Horace met us; we landed at 11.20 & they had been waiting since 9.15—they expected us landing by a train in about that time. In afternoon I went to Lytham to survey the place for article I have to write. A great circus company—Sangers’s—in Preston today. Their performance is in some fields in Penwortham. Everybody—working folk particularly—going to it; at any rate whilst I am writing this they are coming from it. What spendthrifts & geese! Throwing away their money—missing their work—& riding up in carriages, too idle to walk. Verily we live in peculiar days. To bed about 10.10.

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133 Henry Large (b. 1817).
134 Presumably in Lytham.
135 The dead included two passengers from Carlisle.
136 James John Wheeler of Fleetwood, a retired captain (*Lancaster Gazette*, 16 August 1873, p. 9).
137 Small measures.
Tuesday 12 August 1873 This afternoon my wife & youngest child Llewellyn landed back all safe from Morecambe.

Wednesday 13 August 1873 At work from 9 till 8.20 at night. Throng writing an article on Lytham for Mr T Fair for insertion in Illustrated London News if he can manage it. About tea time my brother-in-law Fred Hall* of Sheffield landed, on his way to Isle of Man, for an “out”. This evening a Prestonian named Wilshaw, formerly printer & stationer in Fishergate, but for several years in America, gave me a call. He, I & Hall had three glasses of ale each at Shelley Arms. Home at a quarter to 11 o’clock; but did not get to bed till one in morning. This was my 37th birthday. When I am as old again I shall be getting old.

Thursday 14 August 1873 Up at 8.15, & working all day till 8 at night; bed early

Friday 15 August 1873 Same from 8.15 to about midnight—attending shop, writing &c

Saturday 16 August 1873 Rose at 6.15 & engaged in shop till 10 at night. Ribble salmon was 10d per pound today.

Sunday 17 August 1873 Did not get up till 10.40. Breakfast. In afternoon I read Robinson Crusoe to my lads Bertie & Horace & daughter Florey; afterwards I drilled them in their catechism—a natural commonsense Catechism relating to God, humanity & life. In evening I read Bayard Taylor’s Travels Afoot. Afterwards I & my wife went to Will France’s* & spent the night there cheerfully. Home about 11; to bed about 11.30.

Monday 18 August 1873 Up at 8.10. My printers &c had a cricket match to-day with the Herald hands & beat them, as they did last year. Well done Chronicle. In evening I went out with my wife; she having to get measured for a new gown in Cross Street. Afterwards I called upon Pateson,* photographer, & we had a chat & a glass; Bakewell* being present. To-day Bakewell went over to see Mr Ashworth of Egerton

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138 I have been unable to find such an article.
139 Unidentified.
140 Bayard Taylor, Views Afoot; or, Europe Seen with Knapsack and Staff (London: Sampson Low, Son, & Marston, 1869). Taylor was an American travel writer and poet.
Hall near Bolton as to secretaryship of a new Masters Association throughout the kingdom to protect themselves & secure freedom of labour.\textsuperscript{141} Bakewell had a good reception but met with no actual success. Home about ten; supper; bed.

**Tuesday 19 August 1873** In shop all day.

**Wednesday 20 August 1873** About the same.

**Thursday 21 August 1873** Partly—mainly—ditto. Working till 10.30 at night.

**Friday 22 August 1873** Sadly tired to-day. Sub-editing till 10.50. Afterwards to Borough Court at Town Hall, to give evidence in & report a case brought by a sanctimonious, philanthropic & in my opinion god-damnably two-faced humbugging & malicious fellow called John Proffitt\textsuperscript{142} who feeling aggrieved by letters which appeared in the Chronicle written by one Joseph Long\textsuperscript{143} would not refer the matter to arbitration, but entered an action against him for libel. I do not think Proffit deserved a verdict but he got one—damages 40/- . This case lasted about seven hours; & through the judge—T B Addison* being an hour late—all being kept waiting that time—we had an eight hours spell of it. At office till about 2 in morning (Sat); then home to bed.

**Saturday 23 August 1873** Up at 9.30; got second edition ready; working all day; at night Dr Wm Smith* called & had a glass; then Wm France* came; then we adjourned to his house & (with pipes & glasses) stayed till about 12 midnight.

**Sunday 24 August 1873** In house all day; at night Dr Wm Smith* came, by invitation, & had a glass. We had a pleasant sensible conversation.

**Monday 25 August 1873** In shop most of day. At night I & my wife went to theatre & saw the “Queens” or “Royal” Minstrels\textsuperscript{144} perform. There

\textsuperscript{141} The National Federation of Associated Employers of Labour, led by former Anti-Corn Law activists, including Edmund Ashworth snr of Egerton Hall. The federation was set up in response to renewed trade union activity.

\textsuperscript{142} See February 23 1867.

\textsuperscript{143} Joseph Long (d. 1900), a Conservative and an Orangeman, had accused Proffitt of pocketing money given for charitable purposes (*PH*, 3 Oct 1908, p5).

\textsuperscript{144} Blackface performers.
was a good house, & the performance was thoroughly healthy—that is very laughable. A great storm of thunder & lightning to-night—about midnight; & I had to get up to put cans on floor of back kitchen to catch the water streaming in. Lightning was immensely grand yet terrible.

**Tuesday 26 August 1873** In office & shop till 8 o’clock—mainly so, at any rate. This evening exchanged a dictionary for Sam Slicks “Nature & Human Nature”. In house—it being wet—during greater part of evening.

**Wednesday 27 August 1873** Working in shop all day.

**Thursday 28 August 1873** Same till noon. In afternoon went to get some particulars of Lytham Annual Horse Sale. Prices high—running from about 30 to 190 guineas; but I have been told that some of the sales were fictitious—“bogus” as the Americans would say. Home by 7.40. Working till after 10 at night.

**Friday 29 August 1873** In shop till 9 at night; then to office till 12; then home & to bed.

**Saturday 30 August 1873** Rose about 6 & stayed in shop greater part of day till 10 at night; afterwards went down to Will France’s* (he & his wife* having been by a trip to London). My wife with me. We stayed till about 12 then home; a little supper & to bed.

**Sunday 31 August 1873** Rose at 10.30. In afternoon I played with my children in front room—at parlour croquet & bowls or rather nine pins. Afterwards read to them two or three chapters from The Economy of Life, translated by Dodsley. At night I & wife had a walk. To bed about 10.30

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146 See 9 March.
September

Monday 1 September 1873 Working in shop all day. At night I & wife went to theatre & saw the notorious Boulton (of Parke & Boulton female-apparel &c celebrity or infamy, in London) take part in an impersonational & comic entertainment.¹⁴⁷ Boulton is a good actor & though a man looks more like a woman than three fourths of the females met with. Home & to bed by about 11.30.

Tuesday 2 September 1873 This forenoon went to Stonyhurst College along with my wife, Dr Smith,* Joe Crombleholme* & his wife¹⁴⁸ & daughter.¹⁴⁹ Spent a pleasant day; & at night returned by way of Chaigeley [sic] & the Chipping road to Preston. This was a beautiful drive—wood, hill, dale, river, fell & ravine. Got home, having attended powerfully to good eating & drinking, about 9.30. This day the British Pilgrims to Paray-le-Monial, in France—the shrine of one Margaret Alacoque who, it is said, was visited by Jesus Christ or his sacred heart, about 200 years ago. Several Preston people—Roman Catholics—have joined this pilgrimage.

Wednesday 3 September 1873 In shop all day. About noon Father Walker¹⁵⁰ of St Ignatius’s came & told me that Joe Crombleholme* was on spree.¹⁵¹

Thursday 4 September 1873 Working in office all day; & at night went with my wife to the theatre to see Boulton & Co.¹⁵² A good entertainment; but having seen it before did not enjoy it so much.

¹⁴⁷ Frederick Park and Ernest Boulton, or Fanny and Stella, friends who liked to dress in women’s clothes, had a successful double act, ‘Stella Clinton’ (or ‘Mrs Graham’) and ‘Fanny Winifred Park’, in the late 1860s. They also socialised in London in women’s dress. In 1870 they were arrested for conspiring to commit sodomy and acquitted in 1871. Boulton had been living with Lord Arthur Clinton as man and wife: H. G. Cocks, Nameless Offences: Homosexual Desire in the 19th Century (London: I.B. Tauris, 2009), pp. 105–12. It is unlikely that Hewitson would have gone to see Boulton three times (see 20 October) if he believed the performer had had sex with another man.

¹⁴⁸ Margaret Crombleholme (1827–1889).

¹⁴⁹ Elizabeth, fifteen, or Mary Ann, three.

¹⁵⁰ See 24 February 1867.

¹⁵¹ An alcoholic binge.

¹⁵² See 1 September.
Friday 5 September 1873 Rose about 8 o’clock. At work till 1.30 on Saturday morning.

Saturday 6 September 1873 Rose at 6.10; & at work, mainly till 10 o’clock. When closing old Dr Smith* called & went upstairs to have a pipe with me—also a glass. He had hardly supped—I think he had not when he felt ill in his belly; afterwards he had a sort of fit & I attended to him on the floor. I had to let him go upon it. Got him home & went for a doctor. France* with me. Home at 12.30.

Sunday 7 September 1873 Up at 10.10. This was my wife’s 35th birthday; but we forgot all about it. In afternoon I taught my children their catechism; then played with them. In evening I & wife went on to see how Dr Smith* was getting on; found him in bed apparently in a nice mending way. Stopped a while; then wife & I had a walk; home; to bed. Lancaster,\textsuperscript{153} station master of Brock hanged himself to-day. Poor fellow he had got low, & had taken drink freely.

Monday 8 September 1873 Got up soon after 7; made youngest child (Llewellyn) something to eat.\textsuperscript{154} In shop all forenoon. A fine day for a wonder. We have had much wet for three successive summers. This has been a very unsettled summer. In evening read Longfellow’s new book of poetry “Aftermath” & one piece taken from or forming an unconscious parallel of the Monk of St Gall’s account of the appearance of Charlemange & his army.\textsuperscript{155} Only a few parts in this book good. At night I & wife spent about an hour at Pateson’s.*

Tuesday 9 September 1873 Doing shop work, knocking about; sold some books of my own private library stock & bought some. Remained in house all evening.

Wednesday 10 September 1873 Working in shop all day. Nothing particular transpired.

\textsuperscript{153} Thomas Lancaster (1819–1873).
\textsuperscript{154} Llewellyn was less than three months old.
\textsuperscript{155} Hewitson’s brief critique of Longfellow’s new volume, published the previous week, appeared in the Chronicle of 13 September (p. 3), describing ‘The Poet’s Tale’, about Charlemange, King of the Franks, as ‘weak historical plagiarism’.
Thursday 11 September 1873 At work by 8.30. At 11.20 went to report annual general sessions—adjourned—at Court House. Lord Derby was in the chair, & was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year. He has got very stalwart & stout looking—a large full, prominent, cleanly shaven face, with his head getting bald. There is much determination & cool sagacity in his look. The business of the Session was over about 1.30. Chief discussion was about the earnings of prisoners in the County gaols—those at Kirkdale being the lowest. Finished my work about 10.40 at night.

Friday 12 September 1873 To work about 8.15 this morning & continued working till about two o’clock on Saturday morning. Then to bed.

Saturday 13 September 1873 Up at 6.20; & at work all day—much tired till evening—till 10 at night. Then went to neighbour France’s* & had a glass or two; then home, got a little supper & to bed.

Sunday 14 September 1873 Rose at 10.20; had a cold water bath then breakfast. Read a little of Bayard Taylors Travels. In afternoon Mrs France* came; & in evening I & my wife went to Parish Church with her. Sermon very orthodox & very sleepy. An orthodox sermon is a fine soporific. I can stand anything but a really ancient worm-eaten exposition of this sort. It makes me mentally badly [sic].

Monday 15 September 1873 Working in shop from 8.30 till 4; then read Graham’s Science of Life. After shutting up shop I & wife went to the theatre & saw part of a play called “£.s.d:”—a pathetic & somewhat powerful drama. We left before the farce. Home—supper—to bed.

Tuesday 16 September 1873 Into shop at 8.30. In shop all day. At night I & wife went to pay a bill at Joe Crombleholme’s* on Park Road. Mrs Crombleholme said that Joe had taken terribly to drinking. I regret this; for Joe is an intelligent fellow. Home at 10; supper; bed.

Wednesday 17 September 1873 To-day drove to Great Eccleston with reporters of Guardian & Herald—to the Agricultural Show. A fine day & nice out. Show only small. In Great Eccleston village I & the two reporters had a spell of shooting at a shooting gallery; I got 3 bull’s eyes
out of 5 shots & beat both of them. Home about 8.30 at night. To-day Lund Church was re-opened after undergoing restoration. 156

**Thursday 18 September 1873** Unwell to-day—felt as if I had got a bad cold; but at work till 9.30 at night & shortly afterwards to bed.

**Friday 19 September 1873** Felt considerably better this morning. Working in office & shop till about 2 on Saturday morning.

**Saturday 20 September 1873** Rose at 6.20; working in shop & office all day till 10 at night; then went to Will France’s* & stayed there, with my wife, till about 12 o’clock. Home—little supper—bed.

**Sunday 21 September 1873** Up at 11. Sunday is a day of rest & I have a right to take advantage of it. I look upon its “rest” as including recreation & healthy physical & mental “change”—a change being “as good as a rest”. After dinner I & my wife had a walk to Penwortham. In evening we went to St Wilfrid’s Catholic Church to hear some special music; 157 afterwards we went to Pateson’s*; afterwards to Will France’s* & stayed there till 11. Then home—supper—& bed.

**Monday 22 September 1873** A very fine day this, & in afternoon I had a drive with my wife & daughter Ada to Woodplumpton—an ancient rustic place which I like. We returned by way of Bartle & Lea & got home soon after five o’clock. Stayed at home in evening reading Bayard Taylor’s Travels.

**Tuesday 23 September 1873** In shop more or less all day.

**Wednesday 24 September 1873** At work all day till 8 o’clock; then I & my wife went to the theatre & saw the “caste” company go through a performance. 158 This is a capital company; & I was greatly pleased with it. Home about 10.10; supper & to bed.

**Tuesday 25 September 1873** Working in shop all day till 7.30 at night & then went to Charlie Hawkins,* in West Cliff—my wife being with

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156 St John the Evangelist, Lund, near Kirkham.
157 Including a performance by operatic tenor William Parkinson (see 9 November 1867).
158 The company was touring two plays by Thomas William Robertson, *Caste* and *School*. Robertson’s plays were unusual for their realism.
me—& we had supper; spending a very comfortable social evening. To-day there was a Town Council meeting at which a motion made by Mr Councillor Hibbert* was carried to appoint a Committee to inquire into the reason why no mention was made in Mr Allsupp’s* contract as to when he would finish the Preston covered market.

**Friday 26 September 1873** At work by 8.30; & kept at it—in shop & office—till 2 on Saturday morning.

**Saturday 27 September 1873** Up at 6.10; & at work till 10 at night. About closing time Bakewell* & Pateson* came & we went into my back room & had a chat & a glass of beer. They left at 11 & then I & wife had supper & went to bed.

**Sunday 28 September 1873** Rose about 10.30. Read. In afternoon went with Pateson* to Bakewells* & had tea. Stayed till a little after six & then they came to our house, Pateson’s* wife & sister159 joining us. They all had supper with me & stayed till about 11 o’clock.

**Monday 29 September 1873** Stayed in office—shop—all day & at night went with my wife to the Theatre.

**Tuesday 30 September 1873** Nothing very much stirring to-day.

159 Probably Jane Pateson (1820–1885).
October

**Wednesday 1 October 1873** To day attended funeral at St Ann’s Catholic church, Westby, of Rev Canon John Walker\(^{160}\) of St Augustine’s, Preston. He died last Sunday at his brother & sisters, at Peel, near Lytham. After the funeral there was a capital luncheon at a public house hard by. Canon Walker was a very mild & kindly hearted man & I admired his homely suavity & calmness.

**Thursday 2 October 1873** Working in shop & office all day. At night went to Theatre & saw the Caste Company play the “school”. It was a very excellent & interesting play. Saw John Cooper* there. My wife was with me. Home about half past 10.

**Friday 3 October 1873** “In harness” from 8.30 in morning till 1.30 in morning.

**Saturday 4 October 1873** Up at 6.25 & working till 10 at night. O! labour I get a fair share of thee & yet I am a long way from being killed. There is nothing in the world so excellent as doing something & sticking well to it—reading, writing, thinking, selling, buying always attending to the proper requirements & enjoyments & recreations of the body.

**Sunday 5 October 1873** Rose at 10.30. Had a cold bath. In afternoon I, my wife, Will France,* Jones\(^{161}\) plasterer & their wives, with a child belonging to each of us, had a drive to Woodplumpton where we had tea. Afterwards drove round by Catforth, Swillbrook, Lea &c & to Preston by 7. Then to Mr Jones’s; then France & wife* came to our house. A finish by 11. Bed.

**Monday 6 October 1873** Rose at 8. In shop & office till 7.15 at night. Then to Avenham Institution; where Colonel Wilson Patten* MP made a speech on science, art &c & then distributed prizes. Finished work about 10 o’clock.\(^{162}\)

\(^{160}\) Very Rev. Canon John Walker (c.1821–1873), Jesuit, ‘unassuming, obliging in manner, careful in his duties, fonder of a good pinch of snuff than of warring about creeds’ (OCC).

\(^{161}\) Robert Jones (c. 1835–1908), master plasterer.

\(^{162}\) The Institution for the Diffusion of Knowledge, Avenham, a mechanics’ institute.
Tuesday 7 October 1873 Working in office all day.

Wednesday 8 October 1873 To Lancaster this forenoon to report for The Times &c Anniversary Festival of Royal Albert Asylum For Idiots & Imbeciles. It’s a great & fine building on the southern side of the town. Sir J P Kay-Shuttleworth, Lord Derby & many MPs were present at banquet in evening—two meetings having been previously held. I got home about 11 o’c[lok]k.¹⁶⁴

Thursday 9 October 1873 Working in office all day.

Friday 10 October 1873 Same till one in morning; a considerable time down at printing office—in my room. To day Alderman John Goodair* of Preston whilst in Manchester was knocked down by a conveyance & picked up insensible & conveyed to Infirmary.

Saturday 11 October 1873 Up at 6.20; & mainly working till 10.10 at night.

Sunday 12 October 1873 Rose at 10.30. Afterwards had a walk with my two lads Horace & Bert. In afternoon Mr & Mrs Jones* (plasterer) came to tea. We had a walk; then tea; then they went to church; & at night returned & stayed for some time.

Monday 13 October 1873 This forenoon news came that Mr Alderman Goodair* died at 9 this morning. There is a strong feeling of regret. He was never conscious after his accident. This evening considerable excitement about Taunton elections—James, new Solicitor General (Liberal) being opposed. James was returned by a majority of between 80 & 90. Conservatives down in the mouth.

Tuesday 14 October 1873 Engaged in shop &c all day; & at night I & wife went to the Theatre to a [sic] see a political burlesque called “The Happy Land”.¹⁶⁶ It was good in some parts; but untrue & too sarcastically biased in others. Home at 10.50.

¹⁶³ See 10 August 1865.
¹⁶⁴ Hewitson’s report made more than a column in next morning’s Times.
¹⁶⁵ Henry James (1828–1911) had to resign his seat and stand for re-election because of his government appointment.
¹⁶⁶ An early Gilbert & Sullivan play with music, which included a caricature of Gladstone, one of Hewitson’s favourite politicians.
Wednesday 15 October 1873 Up at 8.10 & in shop mainly till afternoon when I went with Savery Maynard\(^{167}\) to Harry Hawkins* (late John Hawkins’s* son) in order to see if he would stand for St Peter’s ward at coming municipal election, with one sharp fellow called Marshall.\(^{168}\) Did not see Hawkins & though we appointed a time & place to meet him failed. At night to an auction sale of Denham’s\(^{169}\) goods. Denham, a stationer &c—is a bankrupt.

Thursday 16 October 1873 Today Alderman John Goodair* was buried in Brindle church yard. There was a procession of the Mayor, several members of the Corporation, tradesmen &c from the Town Hall to his residence up Garstang Road where they joined the funeral party & thence walked with it to Stanley St[ree]t. The funeral party then moved on to Brindle where the interment took place.

Friday 17 October 1873 Working in shop & office all day & till 2 in morning.

Saturday 18 October 1873 Rose at 6.20, & at work till 10 at night.

Sunday 19 October 1873 Laid in bed till 10.30 this morning; then breakfast; then instructed my two sons Bertie & Horace in their catechism—throwing on one side all the popular creeds & making right & duty & love for & veneration of God as clear as I could. In afternoon I & all my children—Florence, Bertie, Horace & Ada—except Llewellyn had a walk by the Ribble side & through Avenham & Miller & Avenham Parks. At night my wife & I visited Harry Hawkins* & his wife near Fulwood. We had a little supper & some other refreshment. Landed home about 11.30; the walk there & back being about 5 miles.

Monday 20 October 1873 In office all day. At night I bought a copy of Waller & Denham’s poems for 1/-.\(^{170}\) Afterwards I & my wife went

\(167\) Moses Savery Maynard (1833–1909) of Lauderdale, Fishergate Hill, mill owner.

\(168\) James Marshall (b. 1824) of Wellington Terrace, corn merchant.

\(169\) The business of Joseph Alexander Denham (c.1820–1896), bookseller and stationer, of 49 Fishergate, was being liquidated but he had not been declared bankrupt. Denham was a rival to Hewitson as local correspondent for London and other newspapers (PC, 20 September 1873, p. 5; PH, 14 November 1896, p. 6).

\(170\) Probably The Poetical Works of Edmund Waller and Sir John Denham, ed. by George Gilfillan (1857), from the seventeenth century.
to the Theatre & saw the notorious Boulton\textsuperscript{171} (female impersonator) perform with his company. Performance good. Afterwards went to Will Frances,* he & wife* meeting us at the Theatre; stayed about an hour.

**Tuesday 21 October 1873** Office work all day. At night I & my wife went to the Licensed Victuallers’ Ball in the Corn Exchange. It was thinly attended & “wet”.\textsuperscript{172} I had more of refreshments (drink) than did me good. During night I met with one Kilner\textsuperscript{173} — a young & rabid Conservative given to spouting. I found him cunning, but agreeable—sociable. Home about two o’clock in the morning.

**Wednesday 22 October 1873** Rose at 9. Not very well. Had a cold water bath. O! water, how we ignore thee in our enjoyments & how we have to fall back upon thy freshness in our sorrows. Working all day; & finished about 10. My wife at a sale of stationery this afternoon. Hull election today. Pease (Conservative) beat Reed (Liberal) by about 279 votes.

**Thursday 23 October 1873** Up at 8.15. My wife not well—bad cold. At 5 went by train to Longridge & thence walked to Alston College to see Mr Peters,* the principal, about a bill for about £98 he had neglected to pay & which came back to me dishonoured. I think this, on his part, was owing to forgetfulness. Home by 8.30. Working till 9.30.

**Friday 24 October 1873** Working all day in office & shop till 2 o’clock on Sat morning.

**Saturday 25 October 1873** Up about 6.20 this morning. This afternoon my father in law Mr J Wilson,* from Morecambe came. At night he & I had a glass together.

**Sunday 26 October 1873** This afternoon had a walk with my two lads Bertie & Horace; after tea taught them their catechism; at night called with my father in law* at Plumpton Brook & had a glass. Home pretty early.

\textsuperscript{171} See 1 September.
\textsuperscript{172} Well supplied with alcohol?
\textsuperscript{173} Probably William Kilner (c. 1843–1883), Conservative trade unionist, chairman of the Operative Cotton Spinners’ Association (PH, 30 May 1883, p. 4).
Monday 27 October 1873 Working all day. At night went with to a
great Conservative demonstration in area of Corn Exchange. R Townley
Parker\textsuperscript{174} in chair. A very large meeting; but speaking that I heard was
very poor. E Hermon\textsuperscript{175} Esq., MP, J. Holker,* Esq. MP, Hon F.A. Stanley,*
MP & Chamberlain Starkie\textsuperscript{176} Esq MP were the chief speakers. I heard
Hermon & Stanley—both poor. I telegraphed report of meeting to The
Times & the Standard, London.\textsuperscript{177}

Tuesday 28 October 1873 Today at work as usual. At night I & father-in-
law* went to Theatre & saw Mdlle Beatrice\textsuperscript{178} with her drama-comedy
company perform. Good acting; poor house. Home about 11.

Wednesday 29 October 1873 At noon to-day went to Manchester
& af[terward]s to a meeting of shareholders in the New Sedgwick
Gunpowder Company held in King St[ree]t. I was made a small
shareholder some time ago by Mr Job Bintley\textsuperscript{179} of Kendal, so as to be
present at the general meeting & report.\textsuperscript{180} First time I had to leave the
room—the share transfer being incomplete. But to-day I managed it &
reported. Home by about 6.

Thursday 30 October 1873 All day in shop & office & finished work
about 10 at night. Municipal elections coming keenly.

Friday 31 October 1873 Ditto. To bed, after work, at 2.15 in morning.

\begin{footnotes}
\item[174] See 22 July 1872.
\item[175] Edward Hermon (1822–1881), cotton magnate and Conservative MP for Preston
1868–1881.
\item[176] John Pierce Chamberlain Starkie (1830–1888), Conservative MP for North-East
Lancashire.
\item[177] Hewitson’s report made a column and a half in The Times (p. 6) and the Standard (p.
3).
\item[178] Stage name of Marie Beatrice Binda (1839–1878), actress.
\item[179] Job Bintley (1816–1889), a surveyor and civil engineer (Brighouse & Rastrick Gazette
20 July 1889, p. 5), and presumably a shareholder.
\item[180] The gunpowder factory south of Kendal operated until 1935. Hewitson published a
report of the stormy meeting (PC, 1 November 1873, p. 3), but it is unclear why he
was commissioned by Bintley.
\end{footnotes}
November

Saturday 1 November 1873 Municipal Elections to-day. Quiet; but in afternoon there was a smell of bribery astir; & in St John’s ward, where I was, one wretched candidate (E. G. Melling\textsuperscript{181}) was paying 1/- per vote, or somebody was on his a/c [account]. I understand the nett gain to the Liberals was three. At night I was one of the counters for Mr J Andrew\textsuperscript{182} —in the Town Hall. Afterwards went & got an edition out for paper. Later on called at Mitre with father-in-law\textsuperscript{*} &c. Home before 10 o’clock.\textsuperscript{183}

Sunday 2 November 1873 Rose at 10.30. Went to Singleton’s,* Grimshaw St[reet] & had a Turkish Bath. Home to dinner; in afternoon reading & catechising my children. At night we had a table rapping affair; one Mr Holden\textsuperscript{184} of Orksmirk rd making up the party. Had some curious manifestations. To bed at 12.20 in morning.

Monday 3 November 1873 Out with my father-in-law\textsuperscript{*} this forenoon. Went & had a look through Messrs Hawkins’s* mill works. On returning had 2 “drinks”.\textsuperscript{185} In shop all afternoon. At 8 went with my wife to Mr James Hibberts* (the architect) & had supper. Stayed till after midnight.

Tuesday 4 November 1873 Working in office all day.

Wednesday 5 November 1873 Same

Thursday 6 November 1873 Ditto

Friday 7 November 1873 Office & shop till after midnight.

Saturday 8 November 1873 Up at 6.30 & in shop greater part of day till 10 at night.

\textsuperscript{181} Edward George Melling (c.1817–1876), property agent, Conservative, Anglican, ‘a firmly-moulded, rubicund-featured person; has a stiff vertebra; has a shrewd, gay and festive, hot-soup-at-eleven-o’clock-in-the-morning look’, noted for never speaking at council meetings (PTC).

\textsuperscript{182} See 9 July 1873.

\textsuperscript{183} The Liberals gained four councillors, including Andrew, for whom Hewitson was checking the vote count.

\textsuperscript{184} Joseph Holden, agent, Conservative.

\textsuperscript{185} The meaning of the inverted commas is unclear.
Sunday 9 November 1873 My daughter Ada ill of a cold today,\(^\text{186}\) I & all of us remained in house all day. I reading Bret Harte.\(^\text{187}\) At night R Pateson* came; we had a pipe, a glass & a philosophical chat. He stayed till 11.15. To bed soon afterwards.

Monday 10 November 1873 Ada worse to-day & confined to room we brought her into on Sunday. A bad cold on the chest—used linseed poultries &c. Remained in shop & house afterwa[rd]s all day. To bed about 10.30. Alderman John James Myres\(^\text{188}\) was appointed Mayor of Preston to-day. He was Mayor once before; his brother Miles\(^\text{189}\) was Mayor last year (1872–3) & year before so we are getting Myresed with a vengeance.

Tuesday 11 November 1873 In shop about nine—had a very bad night with Ada & called doctor Ridley in this afternoon. In evening I went & had tea & supper at Mr Henry Hawkins’s,* Springfield, Fulwood. Home at 11.15.

Wednesday 12 November 1873 Had a better night last night with Ada who is I think coming round. She seemed to get worse during day & we had to call in Dr Ridley* who treated her for inflammation of the lungs.

Thursday 13 November 1873 Ada not so well today. we decided to send for our Doctor (Dr Ridley). He came, pronounced that she had inflammation of the lungs, & he attended her for the same. We had previously poulticed her breast & back & he I think blistered her back. She seemed somewhat better after it. He & I at night went to see a coppersing model at Seed’s\(^\text{190}\) in Derby St[ree]t. Home at 9.10 & working till 10.30. Ada had a rather uneasy night when we got to bed.

Friday 14 November 1873 Up at 8.20. Ada ill, but not dangerous to appearance. My wife with her all day, as she has been all week in sitting room with fire night & day there. Also my wife’s sister (Jane*) who came

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\(^\text{186}\) Ada was two and half years old, their seventh child.
\(^\text{187}\) American short story writer and poet of the California gold rush.
\(^\text{188}\) John James Myres (1811–1881), surveyor, active in the mechanics’ institute, Sunday School superintendent, Anglican, Conservative.
\(^\text{189}\) See 30 April 1872.
\(^\text{190}\) William Seed (1822–1904), owner of Derby St mills was a ‘cotton spinner and spindle and fly manufacturer’ (1873 Mannex trade directory). This was perhaps a prototype for a cotton spinning machine.
from Morecambe last evening. Had a desponding feeling as to Ada. Finished work at 12 at night; then home & sat up with Ada—giving her sups of warm milk & cornflower [sic] till 6 next morning.

Saturday 15 November 1873 To shop at 6 & stayed till breakfast time. Then, having got 2nd edition ready, worked in shop till my wife came. I went to Ada & stayed with her till 6 at night. Dr Ridley* afterwar ds came, pronounced the case serious & we called in a second doctor—Dr Gilbertson191 who was of same opinion as himself, & at their request we got made chicken broth & gave part of it to Ada. I went to bed about 11.

Sun 14 [sic] November 1873 Rose at 7.30 & continued more or less with Ada all day. She seems very weak & at night doctor gave me no hope.192

Monday 17 November 1873 Rose at 7.30 & continued with Ada who was very ill more or less all day & sat up all night with her. She is very ill but quiet. Llewellyn unwell to-day—something in his bowels or chest. My mother in law* came to-night from Morecambe.

Tuesday 18 November 1873 Ada seemed nicely this morning—from 3 to 9.30 or 10 & then got worse & seemed to have some inward fits. In afternoon Father Cobb* (Roman Catholic priest of St Wilfrid’s in this town came in & I permitted him to baptise or anoint Ada. I do not believe in either; only he is a very worthy man & to please him I allowed him to do what I have named, so that Ada must be safe. We thought she was going to die this afternoon & I called in the [entry ends here].

Wednesday 19 & Thursday 20 November 1873 Retired to bed at 3.30 this morning—first time since Sunday night. Up at 9.10 o’clock in morning. My wife who had a little rest at night attending to Ada. Llewellyn still poorly. I in shop mainly from 10 to 8.30 at night. ~This evening Drs Gilbertson* & Ridley* came together to see Ada. They thought she would never have lived so long, & prescribed for her. I am now (1.47 Thursday morning) writing in her dear little presence; she is uneasy & yet sleeps bits. Very weak & all her sweet fullness & plumpness gone. What will the end be? Will she recover. The suspense has been fearful. I

192 Hewitson wrote the wrong date.
hope she will live. Oh how I would work on if I only knew she would. At 4.20 this morning, after feeding & attending to Ada I laid me down upon the sofa, leaving my wife in charge of Ada; servant B mother,* mother in law* & Betsey in charge of Llewellyn. At 6.30 or thereabouts my wife awoke me by saying that Ada was in a fit. I jumped at once & we applied vinegar & cold water to her temples. She came out of the fit soon; but closely bordered upon two or three others afterwards; & at twenty nine & three quarters of a minute past seven same morning she quietly died away. Bless her. She was a most sharp, spirited & beautiful child. Ada was born in May 1871. At noon to-day Mr Pateson* took her portrait—two different views, photographic. Lewellyn now very ill.

**Frida 21 November 1873** Ada who looked so sweet & innocent in her coffin this day, was again photographed by Mr Pateson* for a brooch for my wife. Lewellyn bad.

**Saturday 22 November 1873** Llewellyn, we thought, would not get better to-day; but at noon he revived considerably.

**Sunday 23 November 1873** Miss Maher,* Mr & Mrs Pateson* & Miss Morgan* came to see little Ada to day. They all felt so sorry & spoke of her being such a sweet sharp child.

**Monday 24 November 1873** Interred dear little Ada this forenoon in the dissenting portion of Preston Cemetery where my other children are interred. Rev E Bolton,* minister of Lancaster Road Congregational Chapel officiated. Before the interment I went down into the grave & saw through a glass cover the face of my little daughter Amy who was interred about 2 years ago. We interred Ada in same kind of coffin as my other children have had—iron with a glass aperture for face. My two sons Bertie & Horace, my father,* father in law,* & brother in law Joe* with myself attended funeral.196

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193 Margarette Elwood née Maher (1821–1889), Anne Marie (1825–1892) and Catherine M Maher (1832–1892) had a clothes shop in Cannon St.
194 A Mrs and Miss Morgan had a millinery and dressmaking business in Fox St.
195 Rev. Edwin Bolton (1833–1902), minister of Lancaster Rd congregational chapel 1869–1874, 'a plain, dark-complexioned, clear-headed man ... original in thought, fairly up in theology, and straightforward in language' (OCC).
196 It was not unusual for women and girls to stay away from a burial. Iron coffins, and practices such as embalming, were common. Whilst the Victorians knew that dead bodies decomposed, they tried to resist this for as long as possible, partly
Tuesday 25 November 1873 Llewellyn seemed much better today; but worse at night. Called, on business at Joe Ware’s,* Church Hotel, after shop was closed. Bakewell* went with me.

Wednesday 26 November 1873 Working in shop all day. In evening went up to Mr H Hawkins’* at Springfield, Fulwood. Had tea, a chat, a smoke & a glass or two & home in a cab, which he had ordered, about 10 o’clock. Stormy night.

Thursday 27 November 1873 Wrote a letter for Mr H Hawkins* to day. In evening Joe Ware* came & stopped a while. Pateson* here & he & I remained in house till about 12 at night—reading & discussing philosophy—when we turned out to see a shower of meteors; but the meteors came not & I went home. He stayed up, at his house for upwards of an hour; but the sky was overcast & he saw no meteors.197

Friday 28 November 1873 In office all day till 10 at night when I went down to my works & remained till 12; then home & to bed.

Saturday 29 November 1873 My son Llewellyn is getting nicely better. We had doubts as to his life a week ago this morning. Finished work at about 11 at night. My old master (G C Clarke198 of Lancaster, with whom I served my time, died to-day.

Sunday 30 November 1873 Rose at 10.30. In afternoon had a walk with sister-in-law Jane.* In evening read De Quincey’s Confessions—a work honestly written & showing the preliminary pleasure & ultimate hell of excess in artificial stimulants & clearly proving that as to opium it is best to have nothing to do with, except as a strict medicine. My wife & sons Horace, Bertie & sister in law Jane went to St Wilfrid’s.

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197 The annual November Leonid meteor shower.
198 George Christopher Clark, aged 56, owner of the Lancaster Gazette.
December

Monday 1 December 1873 Bought a mourning ring this forenoon from J Johnson,199 seu[nio]r Orchard St[ree]t for £2-2-0—in memory of my four little dead daughters. Bless them. My wife to Manchester to-day to buy Xmas goods.200

Tuesday 2 December 1873 Throng in shop &c all day

Wednesday 3 December 1873 Wrote out this afternoon annual report for Mr J Ware* Secretary of Preston Licensed Victuallers’ Association & at night went to his house (Church Hotel, Lancaster R[oa]d) & read it over to him. Had a smoke & two glasses of whiskey & home at 10.45 pm.

Thursday 4 December 1873 Working in shop all day. At night had a row with brother in law Joe* as to his neglecting his work & keeping late hours. He was saucy & I ordered him out & he went. Afterwards I wrote a letter to his father* explaining the affair.201

Friday 5 December 1873 Learned that Joe202 had gone to his father’s* at Morecambe. Had a hard day’s work; & did not finish till 2 on Saturday morning.

Saturday 6 December 1873 Up at 6.25 & into shop. My father in law* came this evening. I was working till 9.45; & then had something to drink with him at Shelley Arms. Home at 11 o’c[loc]k.

Sunday 7 December 1873 Up at 8.30; my son Horace & daughter Florence rousing me through Horace having upset a kettle of hot water & scalding both of them. Applied oil &c. Florence not much worse; Horace badly scalded on one foot; but he improved. In afternoon I, my wife, & father in law* to a party at Mr Jones’s* plasterer Glover St[ree]t. Only nine weeks before Jones & wife, Will France* & wife* & I & my wife (all being present) were at Woodplumpton & then we went in evening to

199 See 19 March 1868.
200 A full list of the cards, games, toys, annuals and other gifts is advertised in PC, 13 December 1873, p. 4.
201 Presumably he returned, as he was working for Hewitson again in 1874.
202 Joseph Wilson jnr.*
Mr Jones’s—poor little Ada my daughter being with us. What changes there are in this world.

**Monday 8 December 1873** In shop & about all day. Father in law* returned to day. Working till nearly 10 at night. New machine man203 named Hayes204 started to-day. Wanan205 left.

**Tuesday 9 December 1873** Rose at 9; having been somewhat mistimed. Working Directing advert circulars for an Almanack got up by friend W Livesey*; knocking about &c.206 Had my hair cut also. Finished work about nine. To bed about 10.30.

**Wednesday 10 December 1873** At work all day in shop. There was a Liberal Ball tonight; but neither I nor wife went—out of decency’s sake & in love & respect for the memory of our dear little Ada.

[Entries for 11–17 December are bound half-way through the entry for 11 September]

**Thursday 11 December 1873** Same—so far as shop & office were concerned.

**Friday 12 December 1873** Ditto mainly. Machinery in printing office worked awkwardly tonight. Was down stairs in printing room from 8.30 to one o’clock—more or less—& afterwards till about 2. To bed at 2.40.

**Saturday 13 December 1873** Up at 6.25 & in & out of office all day. Finished work at about 10 at night & had a pint of ale with friend Bakewell* at Shelley Arms. Then home; supper & bed.207

**Sunday 14 December 1873** Not so well today—got cold I think & made my heart on one side stiff by lying too awkwardly on one side. Stayed in

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203 Printer who operated the printing press.
204 Unidentified.
205 Probably Edward Wanan (b. 1842).
206 This may be a ‘farmer’s almanack’ (see 7 December 1874).
207 This day’s Chronicle carried a bad-tempered house ad, acknowledging that his rivals sold more copies whilst insulting their readers: ‘The Chronicle … circulates amongst the most intelligent, and therefore the best, sections of the community; it leaves the illiterate and fanatical residuum to be either picked up or pandered to by those who quarrel over “the greatest circulation;” … it is the organ of the most sensible’ (*PC*, 13 December 1873, p. 4).
house all morning & afternoon. Miles Myres, ex-mayor died to-day, in his 65th year at his residence Ribblesdale-Place. In evening my wife & sister-in-law Jane who came from Sheffield on Saturday went down to Pateson’s in Cross-st[ree]t & had a chat.

**Monday 15 December 1873** Felt a little better today. Went out at half past 10 to get advertisements for my sheet & desk almanacks & returned about half past 2 in afternoon with about £15 worth for former & £2 for latter. At night shortly after 8 went with Bakewell to the Turkish Bath in Grimshaw St[ree]t & remained in it—having a good sweat, the thermometer being at about 170 degrees—for about an hour & a half. Home by 10.40 & after supper to bed.

**Tuesday 16 December 1873** Up this morning a little after 8 o’clock. During day collecting adverts for the Chronicle. Finished. Very windy this morning & roughish till afternoon. Nearly every one of our chimneys smoked. Finished work about 9.30. Then upstairs & read a little of Beeton’s Annual Siliad—a hot thing very, & then supper, a chat & bed.

**Wednesday 17 December 1873** Up about 7.30 this morning—washed—to office just before 8 o’clock, so as to see how my foreman & apprentices kept their time. All late except one & the foreman (Whitewright) nearly the latest. Then back & to breakfast & at work all day.

**Thursday 18 December 1873** Got this morning a notice of writ for publishing a paragraph on 6th inst respecting Mrs Sparling, wife of Rev John Sparling of Eccleston. The paragraph found fault with her being aggressive towards a Leyland woman—a factory operative & said she was thin-skinned &c. Miles Myres interred to-day. A great procession.

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208 See 30 April 1872.

209 [Eustace Clare Grenville Murray], *The Siliad, Or the Siege of the Seats*, Beeton’s Christmas Annual, Fourteenth Season (Ward, Lock & Tyler, 1874), a mock-heroic satire on campaigning for the February 1874 election.

210 John Whitewright (b. 1847).

211 The *Chronicle*’s Leyland correspondent had written a paragraph headed ‘Great commotion about a “drop of water” at Leyland. Outrage v. Humiliation.’ (*PC*, 6 December 1873, p. 5). The over-written gossip item described Sybilla Catharine Sparling, the wife of the vicar of Eccleston, as ‘a cross between a condensed Queen
Friday 19 December 1873 This day got a writ served on me. Working all day.

Saturday 20 December 1873 Roused at 5.30 this morning. The news machine w[ould] not work. We had to get some of Chronicles printed on one side at Herald Office. Got machine right by about noon. At work till 10 at night.

Sunday 21 December 1873 In house all day till about 4 in afternoon & then had a walk. Read an annual called “The Siliad” at night.

Monday 22 December 1873 Went to day to Bamber Bridge & Rufford—to the former place to see Rev J Taylor & on leaving his house (the vicarage) went on to R Townley Parker’s—Cuerden Hall. At Rufford I had an interview with Rev Mr Goggin the rector.

Tuesday 23 December 1873 At shop & office all day.

Wednesday 24 December 1873 Same. Working till 10.30 at night. Then had a glass or two.

Thursday 25 December 1873 Blessed be Xmas Day. One of the greatest of men was born on this day—Jesus. Working &c in forenoon. Good dinner. Afternoon spent with my children. At night went to France’s* & had a play at cards & sundry glasses of ale. Home to bed about one o’clock.

Friday 26 December 1873 All day at work till 1.20 in morning.

Elizabeth and a fish wife; her horse had been startled by some dirty water thrown from a house, so she bawled out the woman who had done it. The vicar was also a magistrate. The police were called and later told the woman to go to the rectory and apologise, a round trip of almost ten miles, which entailed missing work.

Rev. James Taylor (1838–1902), vicar of St Saviour’s, Bamber Bridge from 1867, ‘a stalwart, strongly-built, firm-muscled man; keeps his hair excellently combed; has dark cap-bordered whiskers … is fiery, manly, candid; doesn’t care much for dress, and knocks about in rough, strong, plain clothes’ (OCCC).

Rev. James F. Goggin (c. 1840–1905),’ as good a looking clergyman as we have met with … a strongly-built, muscular, ruddy-hued gentleman; straight from top to toe, with a broad, compact head, set with military accuracy upon a well-formed neck and pair of shoulders. He has dark evenly arranged hair’ (OCCC).

Hewitson’s description of Jesus as a mere mortal was unorthodox.
Saturday 27 December 1873 Rose at 6.30. In shop & office all day.217

Sunday 28 December 1873 Rose at eleven o’clock—breakfast, washed, read. In afternoon had a walk with my wife & her sister Jane.* At night Will France* & wife* came & had some supper. A quiet social pleasant evening. Bed about 12 o’clock.

Monday 29 December 1873 Up at 8. At work till 8.30 at night. Then went with my wife (by invitation) to a supper & ball at John Chapman’s,218 Cattle Market Tavern—at end of Brook St[ree]t. A jolly, rigmarolish pleasant evening. Home in a cab, which we went in, at 2 o’clock. Paid in £95 to Lancaster bank today.

Tuesday 30 December 1873 Rose at 9. Not so well. “Merry nights—sorry morning.” At work—in & out—all day. Got about £30 in accounts to day. Finished work about 9.40. Made up my diary, supped, bed, about 11 o’clock.

Wednesday 31 December 1873 At work from 8.40 to 8.30 at night. Then had a party to supper. Mr Jones,* plasterer, Glover St[ree]t, his wife, Mr W France,* Pateson,* Bakewell*. We spent a very pleasant merry night & at 5 minutes to 12 o’clock I read Tennyson’s lines on the old & the new year.219 Subsequently we all went to Frances* for a short time & after a glass came home. I thank God that this has, on the whole, been my most prosperous year in business.

[At back of diary, brief genealogy and autobiographical notes, some of them written later, as they mention his retirement in 1890. These notes are reproduced on pp. 11-14]

[In ballpoint:] Index to Family names collected by Robert Hewitson Blackmore

[On the inside back cover are two lines of Pitman shorthand:] ‘Unfortunately ? ? the ? ? in diaries from Christmas 72 to March 24/73’

217 Today’s Chronicle carried a mealy-mouthed apology for the Sparling libel (p. 5).
218 John Chapman (1818–1907), farmer and pub landlord.
219 Probably ‘Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true’ from In Memoriam (1850).