

THE DIARY OF JOHN WARD OF
CLITHEROE, WEAVER, 1860-1864

ONLY by the greatest of good fortune has this fascinating diary been preserved. In 1947 it was picked off a heap of rubbish by a labourer who was feeding the furnace at the Clitheroe destructor. He had the good sense to see that here was something out of the ordinary, and took the book to the late Mr. Arthur Langshaw, who deposited it in the Lancashire Record Office [DDX 28/299] after unsuccessful attempts to trace its source.

The diary is written in a cash book containing 142 pages, 11" x 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", bound in marbled boards. As will be seen from the illustration, the writing and spelling are good, but throughout the diary there is little punctuation. That of the transcript, therefore, has been inserted by the editor.

Nowhere in the book is the name of the writer given, but fortunately—through the entry relating to the marriage of his daughter—he has been identified as John Ward; and from the reference to his fiftieth birthday, we know that he was born on 27 August, 1810. It has not been possible to discover his place of birth, but there is a hint that it may have been near Hyde or Newton Moor.

Ward's place of employment was Low Moor Mill, Clitheroe, which at that time was run by Messrs. Garnett and Horsfall. Quite apart from the general social interest of the diary, there is especial value in the information it gives concerning Trade Unionism, a movement with which Ward was closely connected; and concerning the conditions in the Lancashire cotton trade during the Cotton Famine caused by the American Civil War. It is obvious that in John Ward we have a man of more than usual intelligence for his time and place in society, and one who had apparently had a sound basic education.

Apart from the punctuation, the only interferences by the editor are the omission of entries which refer only to the weather, and the addition of a few explanatory notes.

R. SHARPE FRANCE.

1860

APRIL

1. This has been a middling kind of day, but I was never out of the house.
2. This has been a cold day with a few showers of rain.
3. This has been a cold wet day.⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ From this point daily entries relating to the weather only, have been omitted.

4. It has been fine today, and tonight being the annual meeting of the weavers' union I went up to the meeting, when they put me in the chair. After the secretary had gone through his business the[y] began to chose their officers for the ensuing year, and I was chosen President, which I consider a very high honour.

6. Good Friday. I got up soon this morning to go to Manchester. It was very fine and I walked to Accrington [10 miles] and took the first train. I got into Manchester soon after nine and went to where my brother lived, but he was gone to Preston six months before, and never let me know; so as I had no one to stop with, I thought I would go to Hyde and Newton Moor, where I had lived many years when I was a boy and young man. I went by Gorton and through Denton and Hyde and on to Newton Moor. I stopped a while at Newton Moor and then went through Dukinfield and Staly Bridge and on to Ashton-under-Lyne. [Possibly 15 miles, dependent on the precise route taken]. It was twenty-eight years since I was on that road before, but now everything was changed. Villages have grown into large towns, and country places where there was nothing but fields are now covered with streets, and villages and large factories and workshops everywhere. I made enquiries [at] many a place after people who had lived there, but they were either dead or gone to America or gone somewhere else. I only saw one woman I knew, but she did not know me and would not believe me when I told her I was very tired. When I got to Ashton and could find nobody that I knew, I took the omnibus to Manchester, and all the way back I could see that it was all one town from Audenshaw to Manchester. The omnibus did not stop till we got to Salford. I then went to a Temperance Hotel and staid all night.

7. This has been the finest day for the time of the year I have seen for many a year. It was very warm. I went all through Manchester and through Shudehill Market and got somethings I wanted. I then went to Peel Park and through the Museum. I was there nearly all afternoon. I went to Pendleton Station, thinking to take the train to Clitheroe, but they told me it would not stop there and I had better go to Victoria Station. I then went as fast as I could but was too late, and as the next train went no farther than Blackburn I was determined to go, as I could stop cheaper in Blackburn all night than I could in Manchester. I got into Blackburn before ten o'clock and went and got lodgings directly. I then went through the Market. It was very throng. I got something to eat and then went to bed.

8. Easter Sunday. I got up this morning in good time, but as the train would not leave Blackburn for an hour I went on to Ribchester [Wilpshire is the nearest station to Ribchester] and got in there and was home in time for breakfast. It turned out a very wet day and I never went out of the house again.

9. We did not start to work this morning owing to some repairs that the machinery wanted, and it is the last week of our notice for

an advance of wages or a strike. We expected Mr. Pindar the Union Secretary here today, so I went up to the station expecting him, but he did not come, so I got into company and staid all day in Clitheroe, and got very fresh before I came home.

10. It has been very cold all day, and I was only in poor trim myself.

11. Mr. Pindar came today and I was sent for to the office, and the Master offered us five per cent upon the present prices paid. We agreed to call a meeting and explain it to them, and at night we called a meeting and Mr. Pindar briefly stated the interview he had with the Masters. I then explained what the advances [were] upon all sorts, but a few blockheads insisted upon having the Blackburn standard list with five per cent upon it. I tried to explain that the Blackburn standard list would reduce some sorts, and not advance any sort any more than the Master's offer would, but they would not listen to me, and by a large majority carried the Blackburn standard list; and a deputation was appointed to wait upon the Masters to tell them so.

12. I was sent for today into the counting-house to help to make out a list of prices to be paid, according to the resolution passed last night. It took us two hours, and the result is, that the sort I am weaving is to be reduced one farthing instead of one halfpenny advance, making a difference of three farthings, which goes into the Master's pocket and does not benefit the rest of the weavers. They feel disappointed and I am not sorry for it.

13. There is great dissatisfaction among the weavers in our shop today. A good many have left and a great deal have given in their notice to leave in consequence of their wages being reduced.

14. This has been a very fine day, and tonight I attended a Meeting of delegates from all the districts in the Union. I sat with them until twelve o'clock. I did not think much of their proceedings as a body of working men, and did not feel satisfied.

17. Another cold day. I went up to Clitheroe to preside over a Meeting, and I saw a telegram giving an account of the great battle for the Championship of the World between Heenan, the Benicia boy, and Tom Sayers, the Champion of England. They fought two hours and a quarter, when it was agreed to be a drawn battle. Both men are terribly punished. The fight took place at half past seven this morning at Farnborough in Kent.⁽²⁾

21. Another cold day with a great deal of snow. I went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. They were all filled with an account of the great fight for the championship.

28. Another fine warm day. I went up to Clitheroe as soon as I came out of the mill, to put some money in the Craven Bank. I, as President of the Society, am one of the trustees. We put 60 pounds in today, making a total of £150 the union has in the Bank. I then came home and got some dinner and then went up again in

⁽²⁾ This was the last great prize-fight with bare fists on English soil.

the evening and saw the newspaper, but there is not much news. The Reform Bill is making slow progress through the House of Commons. There was very little stirring and I came home soon. 29. This was a fine warm day. After I got my tea I had a walk round by Waddington [about 5 miles round] to see a new shed that is building there for weaving, which as soon as it gets started will take a great number of weavers from our place, as neither Waddington nor [West] Bradford weavers will come to Low Moor when they can get work nearer hand.

MAY

1. It has been very warm all day. I attended a Meeting tonight and was elected a deputy to represent Clitheroe in the next executive meeting which will be held in Barrowford in three weeks time.

3. Another fine warm day. I went up to Clitheroe to attend a Meeting to get up a subscription for Bolton, where there are some mills out on strike for the Standard list, but there was so few came that no Meeting was held.

5. It has been another fine day. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the subscriptions. We got seven pounds, and after paying all expenses it was agreed to send five pounds to Bolton and keep the rest in hand until next week. I went to the Post Office and got a money-order, then went and bought a new table and came home.

6. Another very fine warm day. I got myself cleaned in good time and wrote a letter to Bolton and sent the money-order in it, and took it up to the Post Office and then had a walk through Clitheroe and home by Primrose [Mill].

12. Another warm rainy day, and as I had to go to the Meeting of delegates of the weavers' union in Barrowford I left my work at 11 o'clock and got myself cleaned and went up to Clitheroe and met my colleague. We took the train to Blackburn and when we got there it rained so hard that we never left the Station until the train went out to Colne. We got into Colne about 4 o'clock, and as neither had ever been there before, we got something to eat and had a walk all through the town, and then went to Barrowford, two miles from Colne. We were the first deputies there; the rest came in about half an hour after. We commenced business at 6 o'clock and went to supper at 9, resumed business at ten o'clock and finished a little before twelve; and it was agreed that Colne should give in their notice for an advance of wages as soon as they could. We then went to our lodgings and went to bed.

13. We had very good lodgings and got up soon and got breakfast, and then had to walk to Nelson, two miles, and took the train to Burnley. It was showery all day, but we seen all through Burnley and met some acquaintances who gave us a good dinner. We left soon on purpose to catch the Clitheroe train at Blackburn, but when we got there the train had gone twenty minutes, so we had to wait until a quarter past eight before another train went out. In the meantime, as it was a fine afternoon, we had a walk all

through Blackburn and up into the Park, and sauntered about until it was time to go home, where we arrived about 9 o'clock.

16. Close and warm with a little rain. I had a walk round by Clitheroe, and the change which a week's rain has made is astonishing, both in fields and gardens. Everything promises to be a good fruit year.

18. It has been a very wet day and very cold. I went up to Clitheroe and bought an armchair. It was such a cold wet night I was glad to get home soon.

19. It turned out a fine day. I cleaned myself after dinner and wrote a letter to Bolton, enclosing Five Pounds towards the Weavers' strike. I took it up to the Post Office and then had a walk round the neighbourhood and home again.

24. It has been today I got a letter from my brother Dan in Preston, in which he says that the family are all well. He wants me to write to him directly, but as he has given me no directions where he lives, nor any clue whereby to find him, I am just as far off as ever.

26. Another wet day. I went up to Clitheroe and saw the newspaper, which gives a full account of the landing of Garibaldi [*sic*] in Sicily which has been successful so far.

27. It was very wet all forenoon but turned out a fine afternoon. I took a letter up to the Post Office with £5 sent by the Clitheroe Committee to the operatives at Bolton, and then had a walk round by [West] Bradford and Waddington and home again.

28. Whit Monday. It was very stormy all last night, and when I came downstairs this morning the house was filled with the rain an inch deep and more, and when I opened the door I was surprised to see the hills all round Clitheroe covered with snow, same as midwinter. I made my daughter get up and mop, the while I kindled a large fire, as the morning was very cold. When I got my breakfast I went up to Clitheroe and took the train to Manchester. It was a cold journey. The morning was very cold and stormy. I got my business done very soon and was back in Clitheroe by one o'clock. It had cleared up and was a fine day in Clitheroe, but cold and windy. The grand procession was just over when I got home. The foundation stone of the Mayor's Bridge was laid by the Member for Clitheroe [John T. Hopwood], and was a very sorry affair, as he was groaned and hooted all the time. There was very little stirring afterwards as it was so cold. I got home before dark and went to bed.

31. Another wet day with some thunder and lightning. I went up to Clitheroe tonight, and I see by the papers that Garibaldi has gained many victories over the Royal troops in Sicily and has driven them into Palermo, which he is now besieging.

JUNE

2. It has been very wet and cold all day. I went up to Clitheroe and saw the newspapers, and the latest news was that Garibaldi had taken Palermo and established himself in it.

3. It has rained nearly all day. I wrote a letter and took it up to the Post Office with Five Pounds sent by the Clitheroe Committee towards the Bolton strike. As it was very wet I came right home.
7. This has been a fine day. I went up to Clitheroe and I see by the papers that Garibaldi has taken Palermo and had granted an armistice for a few days.
9. It has been fine today. I went up to Clitheroe to take in subscriptions for Colne strike. We got upwards of £21 and sent £20 to Colne. There is 1500 hands out. I saw the newspaper, and Garibaldi had prolonged the armistice and insists upon a capitulation.
13. Another fine day. We had a Public Meeting of weavers tonight to hear a deputy from the executive who was sent to get up an agitation in favour of the operatives of Colne who are out on strike for an advance of wages. There are about 1500 hands out so we agreed to pay twopence per loom. A committee was chosen, of which I am one.
16. Another very fine day but rather windy. I went up to Clitheroe and met the Strike Committee and was appointed secretary during the strike. We made a very good collection and sent £28 to Colne. I then had a look at the newspaper, and Garibaldi is triumphant in Palermo and has established a provisional government, the Neapolitan army having evacuated the place. The only other news of importance is the withdrawal of the Reform Bill by Lord John Russell. I then came home it and took me three hours to make a report for next week's ballance sheet.
21. Tonight I went up to Clitheroe. There was a Meeting of weavers to be addressed by a delegate from the executive. I was voted to the chair. The meeting was not numerous but the proceedings passed off very well. All seemed determined to support the operatives of Colne.
23. It has been fine today. I went up to Clitheroe to meet the Committee. The subscriptions came in very well and we sent £28 to Colne. I then had a look through the Market and saw new potatoes selling at 2½d. per pound and Butcher's meat ninepence and tenpence per pound, so I got none. I had no time to see the newspaper but came home, and it took me until daylight next morning to finish the report for the Colne Ballance Sheet.
27. Sunshine and showery all day and tonight the rain fell in torrents. We had a Public Meeting tonight, but it was so wet that not many came. There was two delegates and they gave us a full account of the Colne strike, and it is to be hoped that it will not last long. A resolution was carried to pay twopence per loom as usual.
30. This has been a very fine day and very warm. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the money subscribed for Colne. We sent them £28. We were so busy until late at night that I had no time to see a newspaper. I had to come home and make out a report

to be sent to the printer, and it was near two o'clock when I got to bed.

JULY

1. I got to bed at two o'clock this morning and was up again at four o'clock and went up to Clitheroe with the report, as the deputies were going away at five o'clock with the money to Colne. I came home and went to bed again. I got up again about 11 o'clock and got my dinner; then I got myself cleaned and wrote a letter to Manchester, and as it was a very fine day I took it up to the Post Office and then had a walk round by Clitheroe until service time was over. I then went to see the newspaper. Garibaldi has been made Dictator in Sicily, and the latest news he was marching on Messina with 30,000 men; and it was thought he would cross over into Calabria, and if he does, the King of Naples may run as soon as he likes.

2. This has been a very warm day and the hay harvest has commenced round about here.

3. Another very warm day. It was the quarterly meeting of the Weavers' Association so I went up to Clitheroe, but there was nothing of importance.

7. Another very warm day. I went up to Clitheroe and took in the money for Colne. We had not so much this week. We could only send little more than £26 to Colne. I then came home to draw up a report. I had very little time to look about me. New potatoes were selling at 2 Pounds for threepence halfpenny.

8. Another very fine day. I had a walk in the evening, when I felt very sick and came home. I trembled all over and felt so cold and thirsty I drank about 8 pints of water. I went to bed and fell asleep and got a good sweat.

9. I felt rather better that morning but rather weak. I went to work as usual and tonight I feel all right again.

10. Another very hot day. I went up to Clitheroe tonight and I see the Farmers are getting their hay in very fast and in good condition.

14. It was very wet all morning until 10 o'clock when it turned out a very fine hay day. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the subscriptions for Colne. It was rather better this week, we sent £27 to Colne. New potatoes was selling at a penny per pound.

21. Showery all day. I went up to Clitheroe at night. The subscriptions were rather better this week; we sent £28 to Colne. I then had a walk through Clitheroe. New potatoes were 5 pound for fourpence, and beef and mutton nine pence per pound. I came home soon to get the report ready for Colne.

28. A fine day. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the money for Colne. They were not so good this week as we can only send £27 away this week and I have to go as a deputy, so I had to come home soon and get the report ready before I went to bed.

29. It was near twelve o'clock before I got to bed and was up again

by four this morning. I got myself cleaned and some breakfast and then went up to Clitheroe and met my colleague. We left Clitheroe at a quarter past five. It is 12 miles to Colne and one of the worst roads I ever travelled in my life, over mountain and moor, over bog and mire, through byways and on highways we got to Colne by nine o'clock. The executive met at half past ten. There was forty pounds more money came in this week than came in last week, and they expect a great deal more next week. There was not much business to do and we got done by dinnertime. After dinner we had a camp meeting. It was a very fine afternoon and there was about four thousand people there, and all passed off very well. We came home by railway and got home by nine o'clock.

AUGUST

4. A very dry windy day. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the subscription for Colne. It was much about the same as last week. I had to come home as soon as we were done to draw up a report to take with me in the morning, as I have to go to Colne.

5. I got up at half past four and got some breakfast and went up to Clitheroe and met my colleague. We started off at a quarter past five and got into Colne by half past eight. We had a few showers of rain on the road and I found a good little pocket knife. We began business at ten o'clock and it was half past three when we had done. I then had a walk all through Colne and the old churchyard, and then went and got something to eat and then to the railway station. When we got to Accrington my daughter was waiting for me. She had gone to Accrington fair the day before. She got into the same carriage with me and we got home at a little after nine o'clock.

11. Another wet showery day. I went up to the Committee room to take in the money for Colne. It was about the same as last week. We sent £27 to Colne.

12. It was a fine morning but it turned out a very wet afternoon. I made up the report for Clitheroe and took it up to the Post Office, but it was so wet I came home directly.

15. Another unfavourable day. We had a breakdown this morning and one half of the weavers will be stopped all week.

18. A wet showery day. I went up to Clitheroe. We got about the same amount of subscriptions and sent £27 to Colne. I had a look at the newspaper and the latest news was that General Garibaldi had landed in Calabria and had been joined by numbers of the Royal army.

19. This has been a very fine day. I got the report ready for Colne and took it up to the Post Office, and being a fine afternoon I had a walk round the neighbourhood. There was several persons working among the hay as it was the first fine day these three weeks.

23. This has been a fine day until about five o'clock this afternoon

when it turned out a very wet night. I took very ill this morning with a bowel complaint and was off work all day.

25. This has been a fine day. I went up to Clitheroe but the subscriptions was not so good on account of Low Moor being broken down, but we sent £26 to Colne. I then saw the newspaper, and Garibaldi has taken Reggio and established a provisional government.

26. This has been another very fine day. I penned the report for Colne and took it up to the Post Office and then had a walk round by Clitheroe and home again.

27. This is my fiftieth birthday and a very fine day it has been, but I have been very unwell myself all day.

28. A dark dull day with a few showers of rain, and I have been very poorly all day.

29. I had a good sweat last night and feels a little better today. I have stood at my work in great misery. I have eaten very little today and yesterday.

30. I had another good sweat last night and feels a deal better today, but I can eat very little.

31. I am a good deal better today and it has been a very wet day.

SEPTEMBER

1. A very wet morning but it turned out a fine afternoon. I went up to Clitheroe and took in the subscriptions for Colne. They were about the same as usual. I have to go to Colne tomorrow so I got home in good time to get the report ready before I went to bed.

2. This was a very fine morning. I got up at five o'clock and got myself cleaned and a little breakfast, and went up to meet my mate in Clitheroe. We set off at quarter to six and got into Colne at half past nine, very tired and very dirty. The road over the moor was very soft and miry. We got our business done in the executive by dinner time, but it turned out such a wet afternoon that we were forced to stop in the house until the train left for Clitheroe; so I read the newspaper about Garibaldi's successes in Calabria, and the Prince of Wales' tour through Canada.

8. This has been another very fine day. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the money for Colne. It was about the same as last week. I came home soon to get the report ready for morning.

9. A very fine morning. I got up at five o'clock and cleaned myself and got a little breakfast and set off to Colne. My colleague was waiting for me when I got to Clitheroe. It was just twenty minutes to six, but the road was in better condition than it was last Sunday, and we got into Colne by nine o'clock, and not half so tired. We did not get finished with business until three o'clock in the afternoon, but it was a fine afternoon so we walked about until we were tired and then went and had a glass of ale, and then to the station and home to Clitheroe.

15. Another beautiful harvest day. I went up to Clitheroe to

take in the money for Colne. It was much about the same as last week; and then I went to see the newspapers. Garibaldi has taken Naples without a blow. The King has ran away and nobody knows where. The Sardinian troops have entered the Papal States and has had some fighting, and the Prince of Wales has opened the great Victoria Bridge at Montreal. There was no other news of importance.

16. This has been a very wet day. I made up the report and took it up to the Post Office and came right home again, it was so wet.

20. Another fine day but it turned out a wet night. I had to go to Clitheroe and got myself wet through.

22. There has been a few showers today and I went up to Clitheroe tonight and took in the money for Colne. It was rather less this week owing to one of the mills not having full time. We only sent £26 to Colne. It was a very wet night when I came home.

23. This was a very fine day until afternoon when a heavy shower came on and then cleared up again. I got the report ready and took it to the Post Office and then went to see the newspaper. Garibaldi was marching on Capua to besiege it, and the Sardinians have beaten the Papal troops in several engagements and taken a great deal of prisoners and are now blockading Ancona by sea and land. There was no other news of importance. The Prince of Wales was making a great stir all throughout Canada.

29. Another fine day. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the money for Colne. It was about the same as last week. I could not get seeing a newspaper so I had to come home wanting.

30. This was a wet morning but turned out a fine afternoon. I made up the report and took it to the Post Office and then had a walk through the fields and got a few nuts and home again and got a newspaper. Garibaldi's troops have been beaten before Capua and the Sardinians are still besieging Ancona, and the Prince of Wales is sporting through Canada.

OCTOBER

6. Wet and stormy all forenoon but a fine afternoon. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the money. It was not so much this week owing to Mercer's Mill being broke down. We could only send £23 to Colne and I have to go in the morning.

7. I got up at five o'clock and it was raining. I got myself cleaned and something to eat and went up to Clitheroe to meet my mate. It rained all the time and we were both wet through before we were a mile out of Clitheroe, but by the time we got to Blacko it cleared up and was a fine morning, and we were dry again before we got to Colne. It was the worst journey either of us ever had on that road and were both very tired when we got there. When we got home at night it was very cold.

8. This has been a fine day but very cold. It was agreed at the Committee meeting tonight that there be no more walking to Colne but that we go by railway on Saturday nights for the future.

13. This was a very wet day, and as I had to go to Colne to-night I dressed myself and went up to Clitheroe to take in the money but had to leave before it was all in, so we took what there was and set off at half past seven and got into Colne at quarter to eleven. It was a very wet night and it being fair day at Colne all was over when we got there. We went to the Red Lion and found other deputies had come by the same train. We secured lodgings and then had a stroll through the streets. There was a deal of drunk people who were very noisy and very rough, but as it came on another shower we went back and got supper and went to bed.

14. This was a fine morning and I got up soon as I had the report to make up before the executive met. My colleague went out with two deputies who had never been in Colne before. They got back just when I had done. We then got breakfast and went to meet the deputies who came in by train, and then went to the committee room. We got through business before dinner, and as it was a fine day I took the afternoon train to Accrington to see some friends. I got my tea with them and had a walk all through the town, and when the train was due they went with me to the station. I bid them goodnight, got into the carriage and got home in good time and not a bit tired.

16. Another wet and very stormy day. Ribble was so high that part of the factory had to stop for backwater. [This would not allow the water-wheels, which provided the power, to turn.]

18. Last night was a very stormy night and all this day. We had to stop altogether this afternoon, Ribble was so very high.

19. Ribble had fallen a good deal last night and we started this morning, but it has been very wet all day.

20. It has been very wild and stormy all day. I went up to Clitheroe at night and took in the money for Colne and afterwards I read the newspaper. Garibaldi had gained a great victory over the Royal troops on the Volturna; the battle lasted nearly two days. The English had commenced operations in China and the Prince of Wales has got to Washington.

21. This has been a very fine day. I made up the report and took it up to the Post Office and then had a walk through the fields home again.

27. This was a fine day but at night there was a shower of rain, and as it was the great fair of Clitheroe the streets was very throng. I got myself cleaned and went up in good time. Jane [his daughter] went up to wait the train coming in, as we expected some from Accrington; but they did not come. I then went to the Committee Room. We soon got through business as all were anxious to go to the fair. I then went to the station to meet the next train. but our friends did not come. My daughter was there likewise. I then went through the fair and bought some things I wanted, and came home pretty sober.

28. This was a cold day. I got the report made up and took it to the Post Office, and then went and read the newspaper. The

hostile armies were in the same position in Italy and the Prince of Wales had arrived in New York.

NOVEMBER

3. There was a hard frost last night, but a very cold windy day. I, as one of the trustees of the Weavers' Union, had to go up to Clitheroe to put £50 in the Bank. I then came home and got dinner and then went up again to the Committee Room. When we got done we went to a Public Meeting that was held for the purpose of establishing a co-operative spinning and weaving factory. I took a five-pound share and there is every likelihood of it prospering.

4. Another very cold day. I got the report made out and took it up to the Post Office and then came home again and read the newspaper. Garibaldi had gained another victory over the Neapolitans and taken Capua. The Allies had taken the Taku forts in China with a loss of 400 killed and wounded. There was no details; and the Prince of Wales had left the United States for England.

10. It has been cold today with a few showers of rain. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the subscriptions for Colne strike. When we had done I went to see the paper. There was a full account of the fighting in China and in Italy. It was much about the same as last week.

11. It has been very cold today. I got the report made up and took it to the Post Office and came right home again.

13. It has been very dark all day. We had to light gas before three o'clock and now tonight it rains very heavy.

17. A fine clear cold day. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the money for Colne. It is a poor week, this, owing to Mercers and part of Low Moor being broke down. We could only send £20 to Colne. I came home as soon as I had done, and now it is freezing very hard.

18. This was a fine clear frosty morning. I got the report ready and went up to the Post Office, when I got my dinner and then went to see the newspaper. There was nothing fresh except the Prince of Wales has got home. The Allies are marching on Peking, and the Sardinians are bombarding Gaeta. Naples and Sicily have voted for annexation to Sardinia. As I came home it came on a very heavy snow storm, and now it is freezing very hard.

24. It has been rather cold today. I went up to Clitheroe at dark to take in the money for Colne. There was a rumour that the strike was settled, but we will know better on Monday night when the deputies give in their report to the Committee. I came home as soon as I had done.

25. A very cold day with a little rain. I got the report made out and took it up to the Post Office, and then came home and got a newspaper and has been reading all night. There is not much news. The siege of Gaeta still continues. Garibaldi has

retired to his home and Mr. Lincoln has been elected President of America.

27. This has been a very cold day. I went up to Clitheroe to preside over a meeting of the Union to take into consideration the propriety of investing the Union funds in the co-operative cotton-spinning company. The meeting agreed that £300 be invested and that there be twelve trustees be appointed to invest £25 each, or five shares, and I am one of them.

28. Another cold windy day. I got a letter from my brother Dan to say he had removed to Preston and they are all very well.

29. This has been the darkest day I ever saw in my life. We had to burn gas all day.

30. Another very dark day. We lighted gas all day again.

DECEMBER

1. Another dark day. We had to burn gas nearly all day. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the money for Colne. I then went to see the newspaper. There has been a good deal of fighting in China and the allied armies were within five miles of Peking when the news came away.

2. This has been a very rough stormy day. I got the report ready and a letter to my brother Dan. I took them up to the Post Office and came right home again.

3. It has not been so dark today, we had a little daylight, but now tonight is very dark and stormy.

4. Another very dark day. It is the darkest day yet.

5. It is very weary working this weather, burning gas night and day.

6. Another dark day; burning gas all day again. I went up to Clitheroe tonight and I was never out in such heavy rain in all my life.

7. This has been a fine clear day. What a great change it was to us poor weavers.

8. Another fine clear day. I went up to Clitheroe and saw the newspaper but there is very little news.

9. This was a cold day but rather fine. I got the report ready and took it to the Post Office and then came home again.

13. Another cold day. I went up to Clitheroe tonight and I see by the newspaper that the Allies have captured Peking and sacked the Imperial Palace.

15. Another cold day. I left my work at noon to go to Colne, as there was an executive meeting which I must attend. I got there by half past four and got my tea and lodgings at the Red Lion. After we got tea we had a walk through the town and market and then had a look into the Cloth Hall, where there was a meeting of the operatives. It is a large place and there would be about 1600 people in it. They wanted us to stop but we were obliged to go to the Committee room, and just got there in time. The chair had just been taken so we got to business and was done

by half past ten o'clock. We had another walk through the streets and then went to our lodgings and went to bed.

16. I never passed such a night for cold these twenty years, nor my bedfellow either. It was such a cold room and cold bed we could not keep ourselves warm. We got up as soon as we heard the people astir, and got a good warm breakfast and a glass of rum each. We went out just as the train came in with the deputies to the strike executive. We then went to the Committee room and commenced business. There was a great deal to do, as the Colne Masters are bringing a great deal of families from Coventry, where there is a great deal of distress upon account of the ribband trade being slack; and they say they will fill all the looms with Coventry people if the Colne weavers will not go to work. But at the meeting last night in the Cloth Hall they were determined to remain firm to the last. We sat till one o'clock and then went to dinner. We met again at half past two and sat till a quarter to six, then we had to make off to the station and go home. I got home by half past nine and then had to make out a report before I went to bed.

18. Another clear day, but very cold. I went up to Clitheroe to get some things for Christmas, and I see by the papers that Peace has been concluded with China. It is freezing very hard just now.

19. When I got up this morning the snow was a foot deep. We had sad wading through it to go to our work. There has been plenty of snow-balling all day. It is freezing very hard and looks as if we would have more snow.

22. Another cold frosty day. I went up to Clitheroe and took in the strike money and then went to the station to go to Colne; but they would not book us any further than Blackburn owing to some alteration in the time of starting. So we went to Blackburn and got in [in] time for the train to Accrington, so we got there about nine o'clock, and as my colleague wished to go to Enfield [in Clayton-le-Moors, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Accrington] to his friends to stop all night, I consented, and I went to my friend John Pickering in Abbey Street, and got supper. We then went to some of his friends and got lodgings. We then had a glass of whiskey and parted for the night, after promising to go to his house by seven o'clock for breakfast.

23. I got up this morning by six o'clock, and a cold bitter frosty morning it was. It was dark, and after wading through the snow, I got to my friend's house in time and got breakfast. We all went to the station together, as they were going to Blackburn. I met my mate and about twenty other deputies who had come in by the first train. We left a little before eight and got into Colne a little before nine o'clock. We went to the Committee room and commenced business. After giving in the amount of subscriptions the auditors gave in their report, which showed a great deal of dishonesty on the part of the Secretary. After a long and stormy discussion which lasted nearly all day, and as he would give no

explanation, he was dismissed from office, and another elected in his place. It was six o'clock when we had done, and as the train left by half past six, we had to run to the station. It had been snowing all day and was very deep. The train did not arrive until eight o'clock and we had to wait all the time in the snow. The consequence was that as the train could not get through the snow, and it was ten o'clock before we reached Blackburn [about 17 miles] when we were told the Clitheroe train had gone above an hour. A lot of us went to the Station Master to know what was to be done but he only laughed at us and made game of us. We told him if he did not find us a conveyance we would do, and make him pay for it. He laughed and said we would be very clever if we either made him find a conveyance or pay for one. One woman began crying and said she could not walk to Clitheroe and she could not stop in the streets all night. He told her to go and get lodgings and send a bill into the Company, and no doubt they would pay her, and then walked away and gave us no more satisfaction. We all went into Blackburn, but one of the party was obliged to go home as he had his work to go to in the morning or lose it altogether, and if any of us would go with him he would walk it. I consented to go with him; the rest would stop in Blackburn. We set off and I never had such a journey in all my life. We got to Clitheroe at three o'clock in the morning and had to wade all the road [11 miles] nearly knee-deep in snow and one of the hardest and coldest frosts that ever I was out in. When I got home my shoes was frozen to my feet and I was a long time before I could get them off. My trowsers were frozen like two iron pipes. I got into bed as soon as I could, I was fairly done up.

24. I lay in bed till dinner time and then got up and got dinner, made up the report and wrote a letter to my brother Dan. I then went up to Clitheroe, but I could not see any of the people who had missed the train on Sunday night, and as it was a very cold night and a very hard frost I got a glass of whiskey and came home again. It is the coldest night I have felt for many a year.

25. Christmas day, and a cold hard frosty day it is. After getting a good breakfast of currant loaf, tea and whiskey, I cleaned myself and went up to Clitheroe and saw the persons who lost the train, and it was agreed that I should look after it and get what recompence I could, and they would pay if we got anything. So I went to the Station Master but he was not there; but I told one of the porters what I wanted, and he told me that we could make nothing of it. But in the afternoon I saw a person who had been served the same way and he made the Company pay, and he gave me directions how to proceed. Then I got a little whiskey and got home in good time.

26. Another hard frosty day. We did not start to work today as all the water-pipes belonging the boilers and engines were burst with the frost, so after breakfast I went up to the Station Master and told him all that had happened. He said he could do nothing

with it, but that I might write to the superintendent at Accrington, giving him a full account of what took place and what amount of compensation we wanted, and he had not the least doubt but he would satisfy us. So I thanked him and went and told the rest what I had done, and they told me to write and try it on.

27. I did not go to work until breakfast time, so I wrote a letter to Mr. Shaw the Railway Superintendent at Accrington, giving full particulars and the amount of compensation that would satisfy us, or we would put our case into an attorney's hands. I then went to my work. I have done very little all day, it is so very cold.

28. Another very very cold frosty day, and very little work done.

29. Another cold frosty day. I saw the Station Master and told him what I had done and had got no answer yet. He said I would not get an answer in less than a week because he would have all enquiries to make and the directors to see before he could answer it. I told him that if I did not get an answer soon I would put into law. I then went up the town and got some things I wanted, but it was so bitter cold that very few people was to be seen, and as I came home it came on a very severe snow storm and looks very like snowing all night.

30. When I got up this morning the snow was about four feet deep and snowing still, and all the neighbours cut roads through the snow and piling it up in heaps, which makes it have a very odd look. After dinner I went up to Clitheroe. The road was well trodden down so there was not much wading. There was plenty of snow-balling and now tonight it looks very like a thaw.

31. It has been a gentle thaw all day and a great deal of snow has disappeared, and as this year has closed I can say that I am no worse than at the beginning. If I am anything changed it is for the better. I have better clothes, better furniture and better bedding, and my daughter has more clothes now than ever she had in her life; and as long as we have good health and plenty of work we will do well enough.

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JANUARY

5. The frost is getting harder and harder. Ribble is frozen over and plenty of skaters on it this afternoon. I went up to Clitheroe tonight and it is very cold and very slippy. We had very little money coming in for Colne owing to it being such a bad week of frosty weather.

6. A fine clear frosty day. I got the report ready and took it up to the Post Office and then went to see the newspaper and read all about the taking of Peking and the burning of the Emperor's Palace of gorgeous beauty. Some of my friends came in and they would make me drink a Christmas pot with them. I got more than did me any good. However, I got safe home notwithstanding the slippy state of the roads.

13. A cold hard frosty day. I went up to Clitheroe to send the report away. I then read the newspaper but there is nothing fresh.
20. Thawing all day. I went up to Clitheroe to send the report away, and read the newspaper. There is a great excitement in the United States upon account of electing Mr. Lincoln President. All the slave states are talking of seceding from the free states and forming a republic of their own, and the free states talks of using force to compel them to submit.
23. Another thawing day, and tonight I went up to Clitheroe to hear Mr. Thos. Evans of Rochdale give a lecture upon Colne strike and its leaders. The room was very full and he gave full explanations of all about it. I remained with him after the meeting was over until nearly midnight.
24. Thawing all day and we have got a notice put up in our mill today giving us notice of a reduction of wages. It is upon account of the disturbances in America. The cotton market has risen on speculation that there will be no crop next year if civil war should happen in the United States.
26. It has rained nearly all day. I went up to Clitheroe to taken in the money for Colne strike. It is rather better this week than for some time past.
27. This has been a very fine day. I got the report ready and took it up to Clitheroe. The afternoon was very warm, just like a spring day. The snow has nearly all disappeared. I saw the newspaper, and the rupture in America seems to be getting stronger.

FEBRUARY

2. A fine clear day. I went up to Clitheroe and took in the money for Colne. It is rather better this week and we sent £25 to Colne instead of 20 as before.
3. This has been a very cold windy day. I made out the report and took it up to the Post Office and then had a look at the newspaper. The siege of Gaeta still continues and the American dispute is drawing to a crisis; both sides are preparing for a struggle.
6. A rather better sort of a day. We had a public Meeting of weavers in Clitheroe tonight, when Thos. Evans of Rochdale attended as a delegate from the executive. He gave us a lecture upon the subject of short time or a reduction of wages, when deputies were chosen from each mill to wait upon their employers to see whether they would run short time in preference to a reduction of wages. I was one appointed for Low Moor along with the rest.
7. A cold wet stormy day. We had an interview with our Masters this forenoon which lasted an hour and a half. We discussed everything bearing upon the subject and at the close of the interview they told us that they were determined to reduce us below Blackburn, whatever Blackburn might do, as they could not compete with them owing to local disadvantages. There was another large meeting tonight to hear reports from the deputations. They

were nearly all alike. All are determined to make us pay for local disadvantages. There was a deputation chosen from each mill to meet the Masters assembled to discuss the subject together. I am one appointed for Low Moor.

9. It was a very rough stormy night, and this morning the hills all round Clitheroe were covered with snow. It has been very wild and stormy all day and desperate cold. I went up to Clitheroe to take in the money for Colne. It was a little better this week, and when I came home it was freezing very hard.

10. A fine clear frosty day. I went up to Clitheroe with the report and saw the newspaper. There is very little news. The Parliament has opened and the Queen's speech has said nothing whatever about reform.

16. Another very fine day. I received a letter from Colne informing me that I was appointed one of the Auditors to examine the strike books for the time Thos. Evans was Secretary, and that I must go tonight. So when we had done taking in the money for Colne I went with the other deputies and got into Colne about ten o'clock at night. We got our supper and then [with] the other Auditor went to the Committee room and sat there till five o'clock on Sunday morning. We went carefully through the books and found everything correct with about two exceptions which he afterwards explained to our satisfaction.

17. I got up this morning after I had been in bed two hours. I then got breakfast and went to the Committee room to give the report to the executive. It gave general satisfaction and they paid us very decently. I then got my dinner and took the first train for Clitheroe. I got home by five o'clock. I then made out the report for Colne strike and took it up to Clitheroe, and then came home and went to bed.

19. Another fine day. We had a Public Meeting tonight among the weavers of Clitheroe because tomorrow our notice is up for a reduction of wages. It was a very large meeting and they came to the determination to abide by the Blackburn resolutions, which is to work four days a week at five per cent reduction, and not to go on full time without full price.

20. We are all out at Low Moor. We had another very large meeting tonight to hear the reports from various mills, and they are determined to remain out until they get what they want.

21. This has been a very wet stormy day. I went up to Clitheroe three times and got wet through every time. We had another very large meeting tonight. It was addressed by Thos. Evans of Rochdale, and all are in good spirits and determined to stand out.

22. A cold wet showery day. We had another meeting; it was addressed by Mr. Evans, and the same determination was manifested to stand firm and not give in.

23. This has been a very fine day. The Committee divided Clitheroe into districts and went round soliciting subscriptions. They met with good success and tonight we sent the last subscrip-

tion to Colne for a while until we see how things turns out. We had another public meeting today and a deputation was appointed to wait upon the Masters. I am one of the deputation.

24. A fine day but very cold. I got the Colne report ready and took it up to the Post Office and then had a look at the newspapers. They were mostly filled with the lock-out in Blackburn and the districts around, and their meetings. The only foreign news was the fall of Gaeta and the flight of King Bomba.⁽³⁾

25. A very fine day. We had two meetings today, and tonight we had an interview with the Masters, but as they would not consent to give us Blackburn prices and we would take no less the interview terminated. They said that as soon as they could pay the Blackburn prices they would send for us, and not till then.

26. A very fine day. We held an open air meeting this afternoon. It was the largest I saw since I came to Clitheroe. Thos. Evans spoke above an hour. I had to address it, and some others of the committee also spoke. We gave a report of the conference with the Masters, and then they passed a resolution to abide by the Blackburn prices.

27. This was a fine clear frosty morning. After I got my breakfast I set out to Preston. I walked to Longridge [about 10 miles, according to route] and took the train to Preston. I got there by noon and found my brother's before he came to his dinner. After dinner he went to his work again, so I had a ramble through the streets until dark and then I went back just before he came home. After tea we went to the Preston Committee room, my brother being a committee-man. We staid there awhile and they told me they would send two hundred pounds to Blackburn and we would get our share of it. We then went home, had some supper, then a long talk about old times, and went to bed.

28. I left Preston this morning and went to Blackburn and met with some of our Committee who had been sent down to Blackburn to see how things were going on and what was to be done for Clitheroe. I went with them to the Committee room, when they told us that above one half of the mills in Blackburn were still out. They could not do anything for us this week but we might struggle on until they all resumed work and then they would do their best for us. Two of the committee stopped all night to go to a Public Meeting, and I came home.

MARCH

1. This is a wild stormy day. I went up to the committee room. When the deputation came from Blackburn they said that the strike was about a close, as all the mills would resume work on Monday morning.

2. This has been a very wet stormy day. We took £100 out of the bank and gave 1/6 each to every member of the Union who was

⁽³⁾ Francis II, King of the Two Sicilies. The name *King Bomba* is usually applied to his father, Ferdinand II, who died in 1859.

out of work. I was one who distributed the money at Low Moor, and I never got such a wetting in my life.

3. Another wild stormy day. I made up the report and took it up to the Post Office. It is the last we can send for some time to Colne.

4. We paid all those this morning that we missed on Saturday night, and then went up to Clitheroe. It was a cold stormy day. We had a public meeting addressed by Mr. Evans, when it was resolved to stand by the Blackburn resolutions.

5. Another wet stormy day. I went up to the committee-room, when they resolved to send out deputies to the various districts. I was appointed to go to Preston.

6. Another cold stormy day. I attended the committee-room all day, relieving cases of distress.

7. Another cold day. I cleaned myself and got breakfast and then went and took the train for Preston. I got there by eleven o'clock and went to my brother's. After dinner I went to the station to meet Mr. Evans, but he did not come. I went again in the evening and he did not arrive. I then went to the spinners' institute and met my brother, and when it was time to commence business Mr. Evans came and some deputies from Bolton and Over Darwen. We all went on the platform and chose a chairman, when Mr. Crossley from Blackburn came in, and a deputy for Colne. It was arranged that I should speak first. It was the largest meeting I ever addressed. I laid the case of Clitheroe before them and the reason why we were locked out, and hoped they would come to our relief as we had done to them on a former occasion. The deputy from Bolton spoke next. He said they were all out and hoped they would do a trifle towards Bolton. The deputy from Darwen said the same. Then Mr. Evans spoke in favour of Colne. Then Mr. Crossley made a very able speech in favour of co-operation as the only means of mending their condition. A motion was made that the weavers of Preston pay sixpence per loom towards the various districts who are out on strike.

8. I left Preston by the first train this morning and got into Blackburn and got some breakfast, then walked as far as Langho station [5 miles] and took the train for Clitheroe. When I got home I had to go to the Bank and draw out £80 towards paying the operatives. I then went to the Committee-room and gave in a report of what took place in Preston, with which they were satisfied.

9. This has been a very fine day and we were kept very throng all forenoon with paying the hands who are locked out. We paid 1811 hands at one shilling each. After dinner I got ready and went to Accrington to the Union executive. We commenced business at seven o'clock and had done by half past ten. My mate and me got lodgings and supper and went to bed.

10. This has been a very wet day. After we got breakfast we went to the station and took the train to Colne. We got there soon

after nine o'clock and went to the committee-room and began business. We had no money this week but we laid our case before them and desired them to do a little for us in Clitheroe. They seemed to sympathise with us but could do nothing just then, but told us to send delegates into all the districts and rouse them up, and no doubt they would do something for us.

11. Another very wet day. We gave in our report from Colne, and acting upon the advice they gave us, we appointed delegates to all the districts. I am appointed along with another to visit Enfield and Haslingden and do our best to get up a little subscription.

12. This has been a wet stormy day. Two other committee men and me had a very throng forenoon in writing down all the names of the weavers, winders, warpers and twisters of Low Moor. I then got dinner and went up to Clitheroe and took the train for Whalley and then walked to Enfield [5 miles] and was soon after joined by my mate, who walked all the way [9 miles]. We found out the committee and they called a meeting. We laid our case before them and after a little discussion they agreed to give us one third of what they collected for Colne. We then went and got lodgings and went to bed.

13. This has been a fine day but very cold. We left Enfield after breakfast and went to Accrington and called upon some friends and then went on to Haslingden and saw the committee at dinner time, and they agreed to call a public meeting at night. We went and got some dinner and at night we went to the public meeting. George Frankland, one of the Colne advocates, was there. A chairman was appointed, who opened the meeting and called upon my colleague, who laid our case before them as well as he could. I was next called upon and told them the reason why we were there soliciting relief, and hoped they would do something for us. Then Mr. Frankland spoke, urging upon them that if they did anything for Clitheroe not to forget Colne who was first in the field. It was then arranged that the Committee should consider after the subscriptions came in how much should be sent to Colne and how much for Clitheroe. We then went to the Bulls Head for lodgings. Some of the committee went with us and paid for some drink. We got a good supper and went to bed.

14. There had a sharp frost last night, but a heavy shower of rain this morning. We got our breakfast and then started for home. It turned out a fine day. We stopped awhile in Accrington and in Enfield, and got home after dinner. We went to the committee room and gave in our report, which gave satisfaction, and then went home.

15. This has been a very cold day. I was in the committee room all day considering cases of distress that was brought before us, and relieving them. Other deputations came in and gave their reports, which was very encouraging.

16. The walls of Clitheroe was placarded last night with a large

bill signed "A friend to the working classes", in which the writer called upon us to go to work for one month at a reduction of one per cent for local disadvantages, and in the meantime to chose five disinterested persons to submit our case to, and the masters to do the same. In consequence of this placard we called a Public Meeting and put Thos. Smithies in the chair. Robert Garner addressed the meeting upon the subject of the placard, and said we could never entertain such a question. Mr. Redmayne, a spirit merchant of Clitheroe, he said he had been blamed for writing the placard but he had not, neither did he know who wrote it, but he strongly urged upon the meeting to split the difference with the Masters and allow them two and a half per cent, and he would do his best to get the Masters to concede the other two and a half per cent. John Wood next spoke in answer to Mr. Redmayne, and then I got [up] and rebutted all Mr. Redmayne's arguments. John Mattinson next spoke, after which a motion was made and carried unanimously that we do not entertain the question of local disadvantages, but are willing to resume work on the Blackburn terms. Mr. Redmayne said he was sorry the meeting had come to that decision, and therefore he could not support us any longer. A vote of thanks was given to the chairman and the meeting broke up.

18. After I got into bed last night I had to get up again. One of the committee came and knocked at the door. I let him in and he told me that I had to go to Preston by the first train in the morning and try to borrow some money upon a promissory note, to help to pay the operatives of Clitheroe. I got my breakfast soon this morning and went up to the station and met with others of the committee going to various districts with the same object in view. I got to Preston by eleven o'clock and went to the committee room and saw the secretary and told him my errand. He said the committee would meet at night and I could lay my case before them. I then went to my brother's and got dinner, and at night I went to the committee room, and after they had done their business I laid my case before them and wanted to borrow £20, and we would pay them as soon as we got settled. They told me they could do nothing just then, but the committee would meet on Wednesday night and they would take our case into consideration and let us know what determination they would come to. I then went home with my brother, got some supper and went to bed.

19. I left Preston this morning with the first train and got to Clitheroe by breakfast time. Other deputies came in during the forenoon. Some brought money, and some like myself brought promises. However, we got as much as paid the operatives two shillings per head.

20. This has been a regular wet day, and I had to go to Harwood and see the committee there, and then go to Enfield at night to attend a public meeting. I took the train for Blackburn and then to Rishton. I then walked to Harwood [2 miles]. It rained all the way and I was completely wet through. I saw the committee and

arranged with them to send some men to Padiham to meet our men, and one to go with me to Enfield. We got there in time and Thos. Evans was there on behalf of Colne. He was called upon first to speak. I followed and I soon found I had the sympathy of the meeting with me. Evans spoke again but he did not make any change. After the meeting was over we had a long conversation with the committee. There was a great deal of difference of opinion with regard to the claims of Colne and Clitheroe, but it was ultimately agreed that Clitheroe should be supported as well as Colne. I then went to my lodgings and went to bed.

21. When I got up this morning the snow had fallen to the depth of 3 or 4 inches. I got my breakfast and made towards home. It was very bad walking [8 miles], the snow was soft and sloppy. There was several showers of hail and snow on the [way] and I met several Clitheroe people going to look for work elsewhere. I got to the committee room before twelve o'clock and gave in a report of my journey, which gave satisfaction. I then went and got my dinner.

22. This has turned out a very fine day. I was in the committee room all forenoon and just as we were separating for dinner we heard the bellman calling a public meeting of the weavers to be held in the market place, to be addressed by George Cowell of Preston, Mortimer Grimshaw of Blackburn, Matthews of Rochdale and Rhodes of Stockport. Now this was a surprise to us, and as we knew them to be a gang of notorious scoundrels we were determined to know the reason of their coming here, and who sent them. We went and found them in the Brownlow Arms. We had a long and stormy discussion. They told us they came to see if the dispute could not be settled by arbitration, but they would not tell us who sent them nor who paid them. Mr. Redmayne was among them. He told us afterwards that they sent for him. We were with them above two hours and the crowd outside began to be very impatient and threatened to pull the house down if we did not come out. So then we agreed to adjourn the meeting to the next day and in the meantime discuss the question in the committee-room. So I went with Mr. Redmayne and mounted the hustings. After having got silence Mr. Redmayne told [them] the meeting was adjourned to the following day as we had not settled upon what conditions the meeting should be addressed. There was great uproar and confusion. We then went to the committee-room and had a very difficult job to get them there. The crowd followed us, throwing stones, pushing them and kicking them, shouting and bawling, telling them they sold the Preston strike and must not come here to sell them. With great difficulty we got them into the committee room and it was two hours before the crowd dispersed, when a cab was sent for and took them to Whalley because they durst not go to the station as some of them might be killed, the crowd was so exasperated.

23. This has been a stormy day. We had a public meeting and

I was chairman. It was addressed by Mr. Evans and Temperance Jack, who gave us a full history and exposed the characters of the gang we had yesterday. After the meeting was over we went to the committee room and sat till ten o'clock relieving distressed cases.

24. This has been a cold day. I went up to Clitheroe to see if the deputies had come back from Colne, but as they did not come by train I came home again.

25. A very fine day. We had a public meeting in consequence of the Masters putting out a placard offering arbitration as a means of settling the dispute. The meeting was addressed by several speakers from Great Harwood who had come to Clitheroe, it being Clitheroe fair. Mr. Evans also spoke, and they exposed the gang we had here last Friday. There was a deputation appointed to wait on the Masters to see upon what terms they would agree to arbitration. In the evening I had to go and address a public meeting in Chatburn. I got home again by ten o'clock.

26. We had another public meeting, when the deputation gave in their report, when it was moved and carried that we accept the terms of arbitration as offered by the Masters.

27. Another Public Meeting was called today to consider the Masters' terms, which was that we should go to work till the arbitration was settled and that we should be paid according to their decision. There was a stormy discussion, when it was moved and carried that we do not resume work until all was settled.

28. We had another Public Meeting in consequence of the Masters refusing to sign the preliminaries on account of the vote came to yesterday. The case was laid open to the meeting that if they refused to go to work the Masters was determined not to open their mills for three months, and as there was no support coming in we would be starved to death. There was a long discussion, when it was agreed that all should go to work on Monday morning who were willing. I then went with the deputation and signed the preliminaries of arbitration.

29. Good Friday. This was a very fine day. This morning the weavers and winders of Clitheroe, to the number of 700, marched in procession, headed by a band of music, to Great Harwood, rather better than seven miles. We left Clitheroe at nine o'clock. A great many joined us in Whalley. We got to Harwood a little after eleven o'clock. There was a great many from all the country round. We met in a field at the back of the Queens Hotel; there was several thousands there. The chair was taken by Mr. Fish of Darwen. The proceedings lasted three hours, when we went and got dinner. We left about five o'clock and got home about eight, very tired and footsore.

30. This has been a very fine day and all is very quiet, as every one who was at Harwood yesterday feels very tired.

31. Easter Sunday and a very wet day. I got a good Cumberland breakfast of ham and eggs, which I cannot afford to get above once in a year. I have not been out of the house all day.

APRIL

1. All the mills in Clitheroe commenced work this morning. At Low Moor there is a great many off. There is above a hundred looms standing. It has been a fine day and I feel very tired after being out so long.
2. Another very fine day. Some odd weavers got to their work today.
3. Another fine day. The weavers' committee have chosen their arbitrators and sent them in to the solicitor.
4. Another fine day. The arbitrators met at the Swan Hotel and elected the Rev. Mr. Fielding umpire. They had some discussion and adjourned to this day week, when they hope to settle it.
6. Another fine day. I went up to Clitheroe to a committee meeting, when it was decided to have a public meeting after the decisions of the arbitrators was known.
7. This has been a very fine day. I cleaned myself and had a walk up to Clitheroe and saw the newspapers. There is a very good article in the Preston paper upon the arbitration case.
11. Another fine day. The arbitrators met today and after a long discussion they came to no decision, because the Masters' arbitrators would have five per cent for local disadvantages. They made their statement and would have nothing else, nor would they listen to anything else, although the weavers' arbitrators could prove to them that their statements were false and that there was no disadvantages whatever; but they would listen to nothing but what they stated themselves. But as the other side would not agree the umpire had to be called in, but he said before he gave his decision he would like a number of the operatives and Masters to be present so that they could all hear his decision. After some little delay a number of operatives and Masters was got together, when he delivered judgment. He said that he had been inquiring into the question, and from the best of his information there was a difference of two and a half per cent between Clitheroe and Blackburn, but he did not think the weavers should pay it all, therefore he decided that the Masters should pay one per cent and the operatives one and a half. The Masters was greatly enraged at this decision because they were bent upon having five per cent. At night we had a public meeting. John Wood was in the chair, when Mr. Banks and Mr. Heaton, two of the arbitrators, gave an account of the whole proceedings, when a motion was made and carried that we accept the decision until we can mend ourselves. A vote of thanks to the arbitrators and to the umpire and the chairman was passed and the meeting broke up.
12. This has been another fine day. We got the list of prices this forenoon what we have to be paid for the future. There was a deal of grumbling among the narrow weavers because they have taken a farthing a cut too much off them. There was a turn out among them at noon, and one of the committee men, John Wood, was discharged of the ground as being a ringleader, although he

was innocent of the crime, but they seem determined to get rid of every committee man, both at Low Moor and Clitheroe, as all the blame is attached to them for resisting the reduction of ten per cent; so we all look for nothing else when they can find an opportunity.

13. Another fine day. We had a committee meeting tonight to consider how those men should be dealt with that was made victims to the tyranny of the Masters. It was agreed that they should have 15 shillings per week until they get work again, and that each member be called upon to pay a penny per week towards a fund to be called the victim fund.

14. This was a fine day. I sat in the house all day reading the newspaper. I have not had much time since the lockout to see any papers, but the news is not of much interest, except that there is a probability of a civil war in the United States.

17. Another fine day. This was our quarterly meeting tonight and my term of office as President expired. It was strongly [pressed] upon me to take it again for another year but I would not, but they were determined not to do without me so they elected me a committee man for six months, and Robert Garner our secretary told the meeting that he had lost his work that afternoon for being a committee man, as he knew of nothing else. It was then put to the meeting that they should be supported, and all that might be made victims, and was carried unanimously.

19. Another fine day. They came round tonight collecting for the victim fund. They got fivepence in our house.

20. Another fine day. I went up to the committee room, and the collectors got more money than they expected for the victim fund, so it was agreed they should only go once a fortnight.

21. It was rather dark and dull today with a few showers of rain. I had a walk round by Clitheroe and saw the newspaper, but there was not much of importance.

27. It has been cold and stormy all day and a great deal of snow has fallen. I went up to Clitheroe and saw the newspaper. Civil war has broke out in the United States and Fort Sumter has been captured by the secessionists.

28. It has been cold all day with some rain, and the hills are all covered with snow. I had a walk through the fields this afternoon but it was so cold I did not go far.

MAY

4. It has been a fine day and not so cold. I went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. There is great excitement about the Civil War in America. Both sides are preparing for a deadly conflict. The rebels are determined to have Washington and the northern troops are marching in thousands to protect it.

5. A very fine day. I wrote a letter to my brother Dan and took it up to Clitheroe and then had a walk round to look at the site of the new co-operative mill in which I have a share.

6. Another fine day. I went up to Clitheroe to hear a lecture given by Mr. Fielding (our umpire in the arbitration case). It was upon working men and their Unions. There was a very large meeting and the lecture gave great satisfaction.

11. This has been a very cold stormy day, it is making the dust fly in clouds. I went up to Clitheroe and read the papers. There is very little more news from America. The northern states are sending troops very fast to Washington and that place is now considered safe from the southern party. President Lincoln has blockaded all the ports in the south, and the rebels are sending out letters of marque for privateering, so the next mail is looked for very anxiously.

18. This has been a windy day and dust flying in clouds. I went up to Clitheroe and had a look at the newspaper. The Americans have not got to blows yet but they are making every preparation and both sides are determined to conquer or die, so if ever they do meet it will be a bloody conflict.

19. Whitsunday. My brother Daniel came over from Preston on a visit so I cleaned myself up and went to Clitheroe and shewed him all through the town. We came home and got tea when John Pickering from Accrington, and another young man, came, so we all went back again to Clitheroe and spent a very merry evening of it.

20. We all met together this morning and went to see the scholars walk. The Catholic scholars went to Stonyhurst and all the others met in the Market place and then walked through the principal streets. We then went and had something to drink and then came down to Low Moor and had dinner. It was a very warm day and we went back to Clitheroe and went all through Clitheroe and on the top of the castle. My Accrington friends went home by the last train as they commence work in the morning, but we do not start until Thursday morning.

21. Another very dry day and very windy. My brother had to go home today so I went with him to Blackburn and had a look all through the town. We got some dinner and then he said he would walk to Preston [10 miles]. I went with him about a mile on the road. The wind was right in his face and the dust was flying in clouds. I think he would catch it before he got home. I then came back to Blackburn and took the first train home.

22. Another fine day. I went up to Clitheroe after dinner and saw the latest news from America. The rebels are marching on Washington. They number 100,000 men, and on the other side thousands are daily arriving in Washington, so that it will not be long before there is an engagement. Some of our committee came in and we had a few quarts of ale. When I had enough I came away and left them.

23. This has been a fine day. We commenced work this morning, and I was only in poor trim, but now tonight I am all right.

24. This has been another fine day and our looms has been going

very slow all day. Ribble is so low this dry weather that we are running very bad, but today is worse than all.

25. It began to rain this morning and rained all day. It was very much wanted. I went up to Clitheroe tonight but there was no later news from America, so I got some things I wanted and came home again.

26. This has been a fine day, but rather cold after the rain. I had a walk through the fields this forenoon and everything looked very fresh and green after the rain.

27. This has been a very warm day. We were off work all this afternoon through a breakdown.

29. Another very warm day, and this dry weather is much against us as Ribble is very low and in the afternoons our looms go very slow for want of water.

JUNE

1. Another very fine day. I went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. The northern states have advanced into Virginia, the rebels retreating before them.

2. Another fine day. I had a walk through the fields, and everything looks very well.

3. Very warm and dry, and bad weaving.

4. Another dry warm day, and very very miserable weaving this afternoon.

5. Same as yesterday, scarce of water.

6. Another very warm day. We got very little done this afternoon for want of water.

7. We were stopped nearly all day for want of water.

8. We had a great deal of stopping today for want of water. I went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. The northern troops keep advancing into the South and it will not be long before they meet. Every ship is now looked for with anxiety. There was a heavy shower of rain as I came home.

11. It has been very warm all day and our looms have been running better, there being sufficient water.

13. Another very warm day. I took a walk tonight after supper through the fields and got a few mushrooms, the first I seen this year.

15. Another very warm day, and as this was the day for laying the foundation stone of the co-operative cotton mill, I cleaned myself up and got there in time. There was a large procession headed by the band of the Clitheroe Rifle Corps. The stone was laid by Mr. Trappes the Town Clerk, with the usual ceremonies. There was a bottle enclosed in the stone containing specimens of the coins of the Queen's reign and all the local newspapers of this date and several memoranda of Clitheroe. After the stone was laid we went back in procession to the Wesleyan school-room, where a large tea-party was held to celebrate the auspicious event. There was a great deal of speech-making and singing, and every-

thing passed off in great style. It was near eleven o'clock when we broke up so I came right off home.

16. This has been a very fine day. I have been in the house nearly all day reading the newspapers. The Americans have not got to blows yet, but the Northern states have captured some Southern ships as prizes of war.

22. There was some rain this morning but it turned out very warm, and a great deal of hay was got in. I went up to Clitheroe and saw the newspaper. The Americans have not got to blows yet, but they [are] drawing closer to each other.

23. Another very fine warm day. I sent a letter to my brother Harry as I have not heard from him these twelve months. I took it to the Post Office and then had a walk home round by Waddington [about 5 miles].

29. A very warm day. I went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. There has been some skirmishing in America and the Northern troops have got the worst of it. I bought two pounds of new potatoes for fourpence halfpenny, and then came home.

30. It has been a very fine day. I went out after tea and had a walk through the fields and got a pint of mushrooms.

JULY

6. It was close and warm all day. In the afternoon there was a deal of thunder, lightning and rain. I went up to Clitheroe to meet a deputation from Harwood. They came to see if we could repay the ten pounds we borrowed from them during the lockout. We told them we could not pay them just now as we had no funds, but as soon as we got some money to spare we would pay them, at which they seemed to be satisfied. I then saw the newspaper. There has been some fighting in America, but of very little consequence. I then bought some new potatoes and came home again.

7. I got up soon this morning to gather mushrooms. I did not get many. After breakfast I went to bed and slept till dinnertime. It has been a very wet afternoon with a deal of thunder and lightning, but now it is cleared up and very fine.

8. This has been a very wet day with thunder and lightning. I saw the comet tonight [Tebbutt's Comet]. It has been seen all last week but I was always in bed before it made its appearance. It is a very bright star, but the tail is not half so long as the one we had three years since. [Possibly Tuttle's.]

9. This has been a very fine day and I got a letter and a newspaper from my brother Harry. It is the first I have had from him for eighteen months.

13. Wet and showery all day. I went up to Clitheroe tonight to see the newspaper. The latest news from America shews that all parties are much about the same as they were last week—nothing done yet.

14. I got up soon this morning to gather mushrooms but did not get many. It has been a fine day with a shower or two. I have never been out all day.

20. This has been a very fine day and very warm. I went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. There seems to be something very decisive very soon in America. The President has made a call for 400 thousand men and 400 million dollars.

27. It has been rather fine today. I went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. There has been some fighting going on in Virginia in which the rebel party has got the worst of it. Congress has voted 500 thousand men and 500 million dollars to put down the rebellion. It turned out a wet night so I came home.

28. This has been a very fine day, so I took a walk through the fields round by Clitheroe and home again.

30. This has been a very fine day. I saw the mowing machine at work this evening for the first time in my life; with two horses it can do the work of ten men.

AUGUST

3. It was very wet all forenoon but turned out a fine afternoon. I went to [West] Bradford after some Union business, and when I had [?done] I came back to Clitheroe and it rained all the way. I was wet to the skin when I got to Clitheroe so I got some things I wanted and got home as soon as possible.

4. It has rained nearly all day. I went up to Clitheroe to see the newspaper. The rival armies of America are within sight of each other at a place called Mannesses Gap, so we may expect to hear of a battle soon. There is no other news except they have made Lord John Russell a peer and he has taken his seat in the House of Lords. [As Earl Russell.]

7. A very wet day. I have just seen a daily paper one of my neighbours brought in for me to read. It gives an account of a great battle that was fought at Bulls Run near Mannases Gap, in which the Northern army was completely routed and lost everything they had. The rebels had taken all their batteries. The killed and wounded on both sides was very great and great excitement has been caused throughout the States.

10. This has been a very fine warm day. I went up to Clitheroe and saw the newspaper, which gave full details of the retreat from Bulls Run, which is not so bad as was represented. It seems that the Northern army had carried all before them when the rebels brought up their reserve, at which a panic seized some New York regiments which spread to the whole army and nothing could stop them from running away, so that if the rebels had pursued them they would have been cut to pieces.

17. A very fine warm day. I saw the newspapers in Clitheroe, and it appears that the army of the Northern States are reorganising very fast and that General McClellan has taken the command and that they will soon be ready for another struggle.

24. A fine day but rather cold and windy. I went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. The Americans are much about the same as last week, making preparations for another battle.
27. This is my fifty-first birthday and is rather showery.
31. This has been a fine day. We got notice at our mill this morning to run four days per week until further notice. I went up to Clitheroe to see the newspaper. There has been another battle fought in Missouri in which the Union army gave the rebels a good thrashing and then made good their retreat, but after all, things are looking very bad.

SEPTEMBER

1. This has been a very fine warm day. I cleaned myself in good time, and had a walk in the country.
4. A very wet day. We stopped tonight and wont start again till Monday.
6. Another wet showery day. I went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. Things are much about the same in America as last week.
12. We are stopped again for this week, and it has rained nearly all day.
13. Another very wet day. I had to go to [West] Bradford upon Union business. I came home by Clitheroe and got completely wet through.
14. Wet and showery all day. I kept in the house reading the newspaper. Things are much about the same as last week in America, but something will be done soon.
18. Another very fine day, and just as we were preparing to clean we got word that we must work till regular time on Saturday as there was a deal of weft and twist beforehand, but the rest of the mill must work short time.
21. Another very fine day. I went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. There is great news from America. The Northern states sent out a large fleet, which after a severe fight captured Fort Hatteras and secured the river, so that the rebels can send no more privateers out, nor bring in any prizes; and they have defeated the rebels in different skirmishes, and the hopes of the Northern men are up again.
22. This has been a very fine day. I had a walk through the fields after dinner and had another this evening.
27. Another fine day. We had to stop this afternoon for want of weft and not start again till Monday. The rest of the mill that is working finer sorts has to work the regular time, as they have plenty of weft.
28. Another very fine day. I started first thing this morning to whitewash and clean. It was near dinner time when I had done. I then cleaned myself and went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. There is very little news from America and other things is very quiet.

29. It was very fine today. I cleaned myself and had a walk after dinner, and now tonight is very fine.

30. Another fine day. We commenced work at half past seven this morning and gave over at five this afternoon and stop an hour for dinner, to be the same all week until Friday, when we stop at four o'clock and does not start again till Monday.

OCTOBER

5. We are stopped for today and it has been a very wet day untill after dinner. I then went and got a bunden [bundle] of sticks. They were wet and heavy. I went up to Clitheroe at night and saw the newspaper. The latest news from America was to the effect that the rebels had taken Lexington in Missouri. There had been several skirmishes in favour of the Federal troops and a great battle is expected to come on very soon.

6. This has been a very fine day. I cleaned myself after dinner and had a walk round by Clitheroe to see the co-operative spinning mill. It is getting on very fast. They are up at the third storey and the chimney is half way up. It is expected to be covered in by Christmas.

12. This has been a cold wet stormy day. I never got out of the house but got a newspaper in. There is not much news from America, but both parties are preparing for a great conflict.

19. There was a sharp frost last night but a very fine day. I went up to Clitheroe and saw the newspaper. The news from America is much about the same as last week. Some little skirmishing going on, but a great battle expected very soon.

20. This has been one of the finest days I have seen this time of the year. It was very warm and after I got my dinner I had a long walk through the fields and round by Clitheroe all afternoon. I was tired when I got home and did not go out again.

26. Another very fine day, and it is the great fair of Clitheroe. I went up in the evening and I never saw the town so throng since I came here, both with stalls, shows and people. I walked up and down the fair above two hours, and went in to see the young Irish Giant above 30 stone weight. I then met some friends and went and had as much whiskey as I could drink until twelve o'clock. I then came home and went to bed.

27. I have been in very poor trim all day with having so much drink last night, but I am all right tonight.

28. This has been a very fine day. I was reading the newspaper tonight but there is nothing of interest from America yet.

31. Another wet showery day. Our mill has been stopped all day because the Bishop of Manchester was holding a confirmation and was to consecrate the cemetery. I went to see the consecration and I thought it the simplest concern I had ever seen. There was about 600 people there and it rained nearly the whole time.

NOVEMBER

2. It has been very cold all day. I went up to Clitheroe and saw the newspaper, but the American news is much about the same—nothing but skirmishing going on. There is a naval expedition sailed from New York, but where to is not known.

9. A very cold day. I went up to Clitheroe and saw the newspaper. The news from America is not important. There was some fighting at Leesburg in Virginia where the Federals were defeated, and at Frederickstown in Missouri where the Confederates were defeated; but nothing of importance.

16. Cold and frosty all day and a great deal of snow has fallen. I went up to Clitheroe. It was snowing very fast and there was very little to be seen. I read the newspaper but there is nothing fresh from America nor any word from the naval expedition that has gone to the south. There is great distress all through the manufacturing districts; they are all running short time through the scarcity of cotton.

21. It has rained all this day. Ribble is so high that we had to stop half an hour sooner for backwater.

22. Another very wet day. We commenced working at half past eight this morning and stopped at four o'clock—an hour a day less time.

23. This has been a fine clear frosty day. All the hills are again covered with snow. I went up to Clitheroe and read the newspaper. Things are much about the same, but a rebel privateer captured and burned a steam ship belonging to the Federals in the English Channel yesterday.

24. It has been a hard frost all day, and very cold. I had a walk after dinner but did not go far.

26. It was very wet and stormy all night, and Ribble was so high with the flood that we could not start to work until the afternoon.

30. Cold and wet again. I went up to Clitheroe and saw the newspaper. There is a great deal of excitement owing to a Federal war ship boarding a British steamer and forcibly taking the two rebel commissioners and their secretaries. England has sent a Queen's messenger to Washington to demand restitution and reparation.

DECEMBER

2. A clear frosty day but now tonight is raining. I have joined the Low Moor Mechanics' Institute and Reading-room, It is a penny per week, so I will see a daily paper regular. They have put me on the Committee.

3. This has been a very wet dark day. We commenced to light gas tonight and have gone on full time, but there is nothing but weavers to work full time.

6. A dark dull day. The Reading-room was opened tonight, and the newspapers are all taken up discussing the American difficulty.

7. Ribble was so high this morning that we had to give over for three hours before we could make a start. The latest news from America this day says that the people in the Northern states are filled with joy at the capture of the rebel commissioners, but still there seems to be a doubt upon the legality of the proceeding.
8. This has been another cold wet day and I have sat in the house all day reading.
9. Another wet dark day, and no news.
10. It has been a little better today, but cold. The news from America is all about the taking of the rebel commissioners out of the British steamer Trent. There seems to be great rejoicing through the States.
12. A cold dark day. The newspapers is filled with accounts of great preparations making for war. Very large reinforcements are to be sent out to Canada and a great number of ships of war to be sent to the American coast.
13. There is no news of any importance today.
14. A clear cold day. The papers is all taken up with the preparations for war with America unless the rebels' commissioners are not given up and every reparation made. The Guards should have gone this week, but the Prince Consort, who is their Colonel, could not review them as he is confined to his chamber with a severe cold.
15. A dark misty day. There is a rumour tonight that the Prince Consort is dead.
16. It is true that Prince Albert is dead. The newspapers are all in mourning. There was no one expected such a sad calamity, he being a young man and had only a slight cold. Every one has got a shock by it being so sudden.
17. A clear cold day. The President's message has arrived, but there is nothing in it relative to the Trent affair.
18. A very fine day. The latest news from America is much about the same as last week.
19. More reinforcements for Canada and more warships for the same place are all the news of the day.
21. Another clear frosty day. There is nothing fresh in the newspapers. I went up to Clitheroe to get some things for Christmas day, but it was very cold and I did not stop long.
23. As this is the day that the Prince Consort is buried the mill was stopped all day, so I took the opportunity and whitewashed the house.
25. Christmas day, and the finest I ever seen. It was as warm as some summer days. I spent the day very pleasant. I had plenty of currant cake and whiskey but I kept myself sober and did not go to any public house.
26. Another very fine day, but now tonight is very frosty. The news from America is very scanty. The papers are all taken up discussing the Trent affair.
29. A very cold hard frosty day. I went up to Clitheroe after

tea but it was so cold I did not stop long. There was very few stirring about.

31. The last day of the year and a cold damp day it is, and no news from America. Now as the year is finished I must say that I am not so well off as I have been for several years, owing to so much short time and a prospect of war with the United States.

1862

JANUARY

1. We are beginning the New Year under very poor prospects. Bad trade, short time, and a prospect of a war with America, which, if it should take place, will be worse than ever, as we will get no cotton from it. Every one is anxious for the arrival of the next mail, which is expected every day. We have been working all day—it has been cold and damp.

2. Another dark soft day, and the news from America is better than we expected, as it is of a peaceable kind; but we must wait for the answer to the despatches sent by our Government before we can rely upon anything.

4. A fine clear frosty day, and later news from America is of the same peaceful tone. My daughter was married today⁽⁴⁾ at the old church in Clitheroe. It passed off very quietly and nobody got drunk.

5. A cold wet forenoon but a fine afternoon. We finished the remainder of the wedding drink, and I was fairly tired of it.

7. No news yet concerning the rebel commissioners, but it is believed they will be given up.

8. Another wet cold day, and owing to the scarcity of cotton we are working such rubbish as I never saw in my life. We cannot do the half work that we used to do.

10. A dark wet day, and the latest news from America states that the rebel agents are to be released.

14. The whole of the dispatches are published relative to the Trent affair, which seems to give a deal of satisfaction. The Federal Government have destroyed the harbour of Charleston by sinking ships laden with stones.

15. We commenced running short time again this morning, and a fire broke out in the blowing room in the forenoon which was soon put out by the work hands.

16. Another dark foggy day. There is a Confederate privateer laying in Southampton dock and there is a Federal ship of war lying about a mile from her, watching her, on purpose to take her if she leaves the docks. They have been that way some days but the Government has placed two ships of war to watch them and prevent a collision in British waters.

17. Dark weather, bad yarn and short time answers very badly.

⁽⁴⁾ His daughter Jane, aged 25, married Bernard Knowles, of Low Moor, widower, aged 34, spinner.

A great number of weavers have given up their odd loom, as they cannot keep it on, the yarn is so bad.

20. We started full time this morning. It has been snowing all forenoon, but now tonight it is raining.

21. A very cold day. The news from America is to the effect that the Federal forces is making preparations for a grand attack very soon.

22. A clear day but cold. The newspaper is filled with an account of a coal-pit that has closed and buried 220 human beings near Newcastle.

23. A dark dull day, and very bad for us poor weavers with rotten cotton.

24. There is no later news from America, and we stopped at half past four this afternoon again.

25. They have got the debris cleared away from the shaft of the Hartley coal-pit near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, but every one was dead, having been suffocated with gas.

26. A fine clear frosty day. I had a walk after dinner but felt rather cold.

27. A dark day again. What with short time and bad cotton we are doing very badly.

30. Wet again today. The Confederate commissioners, Slidell and Mason, who were taken out of a British ship by a Federal warship, has arrived in England.

FEBRUARY

2. It has been very mild and calm all day, just like a spring day. I had a walk after dinner and home again.

5. This has been a cold windy day. The news from America says that the Federal army has gained a complete victory over the rebels in Kentucky, killing their commander, General Zollicoffer, and taking all their cannon, horses and stores.

9. Another hard frosty day. I cleaned myself up and had a walk round by Clitheroe to look at the Co-operative mill which is getting on very fast. They are now at the cock loft.

15. It has been cold all day. The news from America confirms all about the rebel disaster at Mill Creek in Kentucky.

21. A fine day. I had a very narrow escape with my life this morning. The shaft above my head broke and fell just as I was coming from under it. As it is it broke a deal of yarn.

22. Another fine day, and the news from America states that Fort Henry in Tennessee has been captured by the Federals.

23. This has been a fine day but cold. I cleaned myself and had a walk round by Waddington and Clitheroe and home again.

24. A very cold day, and now the night is very stormy. News from America states that Burnside's expedition has captured Ronoake Island and Elizabethtown, and destroyed the rebel fleet and gunboats. There was a loss of about 1000 on either side.

MARCH

1. A very fine day. The news from America confirms the taking of Ronoake Island, but the loss of the Federals was not more than 350 men.
2. This has been a very fine day. I had a walk round by Clitheroe to look at the Co-operative mill which has just got the timber on.
4. It has been raining all day and the snow has gone away. There is great news from America. The Federals have got a number of victories, but the greatest was the capture of Fort Donnelson with 15,000 prisoners and 20,000 rifles and all the war material.
8. Another cold wet day, and the news from America confirms all the previous news, and states that two rebel regiments deserted from Clarksville and surrendered themselves to General Grant at Fort Donnelson.
12. A cold stormy day. The news from America is very encouraging to the Federal forces. They are getting some more advantages over the rebels, and there is a rumour that Nashville and Columbus is evacuated by the rebels and taken possession of by the Federal Army.
15. It has been cold all day. The news from America confirms the occupation of Nashville by the Federal army.
16. Another very cold day. I had a little walk this afternoon, but it was so cold I did not stop long.
18. Another fine day. We had a break down this morning which is likely to last all week.
19. Another fine day. We have stopped tonight for all week.
21. Another very bitter cold day. I had thought to have a walk out in the country but 'twas so cold. The news from America contains a message from President Lincoln recommending the emancipation of the slaves.
22. There was a hard frost last night and it has been very fine all day. I had a walk in the country round by Waddington and Clitheroe and saw the newspapers, but there is nothing of importance in them.
26. Another very cold day and we have stopped today for all week.
27. It has not been so cold today. My daughter was confined this afternoon with a very fine son.
28. This has been a very fine day and I went and gathered some sticks for kindling fires. There is great news from America. The rebel army has retreated from the Potomac and the Federals have got possession of all their strongholds and another battle was fought in Missouri, when the rebels was routed with the loss of 1500 men, and there has been a great naval battle fought in James's River, when the rebel steamer Merrimac attacked the Federal fleet and destroyed two frigates and blew up three gun-boats. She is mail-clad, so that none of them could hurt, but next morning a Federal iron steamer Monitor, not half its size and only two

guns, attacked the Merrimac, and after five hours fighting the rebel was glad to run back disabled, while the Monitor was not in the least injured.

30. This has been a fine day. I had a walk in the evening round by Waddington and Bashall Eaves [8 or 9 miles].

31. We started at half past eight this morning and stopped at half past four, and things are likely to get worse if cotton gets no cheaper.

APRIL

7. A very cold day. The news from America is that the rebels have been defeated with great loss at Winchester in Virginia and at Newborn in North Carolina, and the latest accounts from the Missisipi says that Island No. 10 is making a great resistance, but they hoped to take it in a few days and then push on to New Orleans.

8. Another cold day and it seems our Government is taking alarm since the American fight with iron steamers, and have given orders that no more wooden ships of war are to be built, but that a fleet of iron ships be built as soon as possible.

13. Another hard frost last night and the hills all round Clitheroe are covered with snow. I went to Church this morning, it being Palm Sunday, and after dinner I had a walk with my son-in-law round by Hodder bridge and Hodder House and home by Mitton [about 8 miles]. It was a fine day but cold.

16. This has been a wet day and the news from America is much about the same as last week, but both sides are making ready for a great battle both at New Orleans and in Virginia.

20. Easter Sunday. This has been a very fine day. I had a good deal of walking this afternoon.

22. Another wet stormy day. The news from America gives an account of a great battle that was fought at Pittsburg Landing which lasted two days, when the rebels were defeated with great loss. The Federal loss is about 7000 killed, wounded and missing.

27. This has been a very fine warm day. I went up to Clitheroe to stand as Godfather to my grandson, who was christened today by the name of William.

28. Another very fine day. The news from America confirms the great battle, but the rebels claim it as a great victory, but the Federals have captured Fort Pulaski, the strongest place in America, and Island No. 10 in the Mississippi, with all they had in them; and General McClellan was preparing to besiege Yorktown with 150,000 men. It is very strongly fortified and is capable of holding out a long time.

MAY

2. A cold windy day. We stopped at noon and wont start untill Monday morning. The news from America is much about the same as last mail.

3. A cold windy day, and as I had nothing to do I went up to Clitheroe, but there was so much dust flying and so cold I came home again.
8. Another wet day, and the news from America is much about the same.
10. A fine day but rather cold. I feel very poorly myself. It is a bad cold I have got.
11. I have been very poorly all day and never been out of the house.
13. Another very fine day. The news from America tells of the capture of New Orleans by the Federals without a blow.
14. Another fine day. It seems that the siege of Yorktown is going on favourably.
15. Another mail from America confirms the capture of New Orleans and of Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana.
16. This was a fine day, and as I had nothing to do I went a gathering sticks and heard the Cuckoo several times.
17. Another fine day, and the news from America says that Yorktown has been evacuated and the rebels are in full retreat, pursued by General McLellan.
18. Another fine day. I had a walk round by Clitheroe in the afternoon.
21. It has been fine all day and the news from America says McLellan overtook the rebels at Williamsburg and again routed them with great loss.
22. Another fine day, and we stopped this forenoon for all week.
23. Another fine day. I have been playing cards nearly all day.
24. Another fine day. I have been reading nearly all day. I went up to Clitheroe in the evening and saw new potatoes for the first time. They were fourpence a pound.
25. This has been another fine day, and I had a fine walk this afternoon.
27. Another fine day, and the news from America shows the rebels retreating upon Richmond, closely pursued by the Federal army.
30. A wet day, and the news from America gives an account of the defeat of the Federal gunboats on the James River with great loss, but the army was advancing and was only twenty miles from Richmond.
31. This has been a fine day and I have been reading nearly all day.

JUNE

4. Another wet day and the news from America says that the Federal army was within seven miles of Richmond, but that the rebels would make a stand there and fight to the last, and also that the blockade was raised in New Orleans, Port Royal and Beaufort.
7. This has been a very cold day. I went up to Clitheroe and

stood awhile in the street and my feet and hands got as cold as if it had been midwinter.

8. This has been a very wet day and I have never been out of the house all day.

[The Diary breaks off here in the middle of a page, and resumes on the next page with:]⁽⁵⁾

1864

APRIL

10. It is nearly two years since I wrote anything in the way of a diary. I now take up my pen to resume the task. It has been a very poor time for me all the time owing to the American war, which seems as far of being settled as ever. The mill I work in was stopped all last winter, during which time I had three shillings per week allowed by the relief committee, which barely kept me alive. When we started work again it was with Surat cotton, and a great number of weavers can only mind two looms. We can earn very little. I have not earned a shilling a day this last month, and there are many like me. My clothes and bedding is wearing out very fast and I have no means of getting any more, as what wages I get does hardly keep me, after paying rent, rates and firing. I am living by myself, my daughter and son-in-law having gone to a house of their own during the time I was out of work. I went twice to Preston to see my brother Daniel, but him and his family were no better off than myself, having nothing better than Surat to work at, and it is the same all through Lancashire. There has been some terrible and bloody battles fought in America these last two years. In fact there has been nothing but victories and defeats advances and retreats, in which both sides have suffered most serious losses, and the last accounts from America say that both sides are preparing for another bloody struggle. There is another war at present in Denmark. Both the Prussians and Austrians have invaded that country, and sweeping all before them. Besides, the Poles have been in arms against Russia these last twelve months, and Garibaldi has landed in England this week and is to enter London tomorrow in great triumph, as great preparations are making by the Lord Mayor and Corporation to receive him. The principal reason why I did not take any notes these last two years is because I was sad and weary. One half of the time I was out of work and the other I had to work as hard as ever I wrought in my life, and can hardly keep myself living. If things do not mend this summer I will try somewhere else or something else, for I can't go much further with what I am at.

17. I have had another weary week of bad work. I have just earned $7/3\frac{1}{2}$ off three looms and there are plenty as bad off as me, and if any one complains to the Master of bad work he says, if

⁽⁵⁾ From this point the Diary is transcribed in full.

1864

April 10 It is nearly two years since I wrote anything in the way of a diary I now take up my pen to resume the task it has been a very poor time for me all the time, owing to the American war which seems as far of being settled as ever the Mill I work in was stopped all last winter during which time I had three shillings per week allowed by the relief committee which barely kept me alive when we started work again it was with Surat cotton and a great number of weavers can only ~~work~~ two looms we can earn very little I have not earned a shilling a day this last month and there are many like me my clothes and bedding is wearing out very fast and I have no means of getting any more as what wages I get does hardly keep me after paying rent rates and firing I am living by my

PLATE 10 : A TYPICAL PAGE FROM JOHN WARD'S DIARY

you don't like [it] you can leave. He wants no one to stop that does not like it, and that is all the satisfaction we can get. The news of the week is all taken up with Garibaldi's reception in London and neighbourhood. He has received invitations from nearly every large town in England and Scotland to visit them, and the news from America is about the same. Some skirmishing in which the Federal troops had the advantage. From Denmark the news is very trifling. The Prussians have been bombarding Duppel this last fortnight with very little success. There is very little news from Poland, and at home there is not much doing but squabbling in Parliament about things that is of no use to us. The weather has been fine all week and today in particular. I had a walk after dinner all round Bashall Eaves and home again.

MAY

1. There has been some little rain today, the first we have had for three weeks. It is much wanted. There has been very little news this last fortnight with the exception of the fall of Duppel. The Prussians with 45,000 men overwhelmed the Danes who had only 8000 men. One half of them were either killed or taken prisoners, so the Prussians has nothing to boast of. From the United States there is very little news, but great preparations are making on both sides for a great battle, which is expected to come off soon. At home Garibaldi's health would not permit him to travel through England as he could like to have done, as his medical advisers say it would break his constitution down if he had to go through the same fatigue as he went through in London and neighbourhood; so he has gone back to the Isle of Capera until he is a little stronger, and then he expects to be able to pay a visit to all the towns that have invited him. There is very little news from Poland, but there is news of a great victory gained by the Russians over the Circassians, who are completely routed and flying into Turkey in great numbers. At our mill things are getting worse. I have given up my odd loom as I cannot keep two looms going, and last week I had only $5/1\frac{1}{2}$ after a very hard week's work, but they have promised us better work as soon as the cotton is done that they have on hand. They have promised so often that we can hardly believe them.

8. We have had a very fine week of sunshine and showers, and everything is growing very fast in fields and gardens, and markets are coming down very fast. The news from America gives an account of the capture of Fort Pillow on the Mississippi by the Confederates who were 8000 strong. The Federals were about 650 strong, and after a severe fight they surrendered, when the whole garrison were massacred by the rebels, but about 40 who escaped. It has caused great excitement in the Northern states, who demand retaliation. We will see in a short time what they will do. The work at our place is beginning to mend. I have got two beams in, the best I have had for twelve months, but they are for shifting the

looms out of our shop into a new shed that is ready for starting, so I hope to get better on than I have done this last winter. In Denmark the Danes are retreating and the Austrians and Prussians are advancing. There is a conference sitting in London on the war, but how it will end there is no one knows.

15. Whitsunday. It has been very hot all day and I have been out walking nearly all afternoon. The news from America gives an account of the defeat of the Federal army under General Banks on the Red River with the loss of 4000 men and 20 pieces of cannon, and in the course of another week we may hear of one of the greatest battles that ever was fought. The army under General Grant numbers about 230,000 men with 800 pieces of artillery, while the rebels are supposed to have nearly as many men and guns, and that both armies are confident and anxious to get to work. In Denmark there is a suspension of hostilities for a month, the conference having agreed to an armistice for that time, and it is to be hoped that peace may be made. At home things are much about the same. I have been shifted into the new shed and got two very bad looms and bad work in them, so I am no better off than I was. We are to have a holiday tomorrow, but I am too poor to go anywhere so I must stay at home.

22. It has been very hot all this week, with some thunder showers. I have been walking all this afternoon, and everything looks well in fields and gardens, with every prospect of a good fruit year. There was a telegram from America yesterday announcing that General Grant had commenced hostilities by attacking the rebels, but that is all, so we must wait a few more days before we can learn anything. In Denmark all is quiet just now, and the Polish insurrection is over and many hundreds of families are sent to Siberia; and at our mill things is likely to get worse. The spinners turned out, and a deputation waited upon the Masters, wanting them to mend the work as it was so bad they could scarce get a living. The Masters said they would not mend it and if they did not like it they could leave, so they had to go work again.

29. Another week of bad work. It is as bad now as ever it was, and no signs of it mending. There has been a great deal of news from America this week giving an account of some of the most terrific battles with the most terrible carnage and slaughter for eight days that has ever been known in the world, and with little result. What little advantage has been gained has been gained by the Federals. They have driven the rebels from the Raphidan to Spotsylvania, a distance of twenty miles, fighting every foot of the road. It is calculated that each side has lost from forty to fifty thousand men each, and if they fight the same on to Richmond it will cost either side one hundred thousand men at least. The last news in yesterday gave an account of the capture of 8000 men and thirty cannon from the rebels. A great many Generals are killed and wounded on either side. There is no other news of importance this week.

JUNE

4. This has been a wet day and I have never been out of the house. There has been some very hard frost this week, last Wednesday morning the first of June in particular, all the country was quite white, while all the potato tops are withered, and pears and cherries have fallen from the trees in all directions, and gooseberries are more numerous on the ground than on the bushes. There is not much later news from America this week. Both armies are fronting each other. At Spotsylvania both sides have made an attack upon each other and been repulsed. Heavy rains have greatly impeded each army. The Federals have been repulsed on James River, with a loss of two thousand men, and the rebels have been defeated in Georgia with great loss, so there is not much gained on either side. There is not anything else of importance. I went up to Clitheroe last night, and new potatoes were selling at sixpence per pound.

19. It has been fine growing weather this last week, and hay harvest has commenced. The latest news from America says that General Grant outflanked General Lee at Spotsylvania and made him retreat to the North Anna River where he had a very strong position, but Grant outflanked him again, and now they are fronting each other within seven miles of Richmond, so there must be some severe fighting soon. General Sherman has defeated the rebels in several engagements in Georgia and was within two days' march of Atlanta, their great stronghold. In Europe the Danish armistice [is] prolonged another fortnight, and if nothing definite is come to, there will be war again; and at Low Moor things are as bad as ever. I went up to Clitheroe last night. There was a great temperance demonstration and procession which passed off very well. New potatoes were selling at two pound for threepence halfpenny.

26. There has been a great deal of rain this last week and today is very cold and boisterous. The news from America gives an account of an assault upon the rebel defences, which was repulsed with a loss of 6000 men. General Grant has found that the position is too strong, so it is thought that he will try and get round to the other side of Richmond. There was a great battle fought last Sunday morning off the French coast near Cherbourg between the Federal war steamer Kearsa[r]ge and the Confederate cruiser the Alabama, which had burned and destroyed one hundred merchantmen belonging to the United States. The fight lasted an hour and ten minutes when the rebel ship was sent to the bottom. The captain and some of the officers escaped on board an English yacht that came out of Cherbourg with her. They had eleven killed and twenty wounded, and about ten or a dozen were drowned, along with the surgeon; while the Kearsage was very little damaged and had only three men wounded. They picked up 68 men from the sinking ship. The Danish conference has closed without coming to any decision, so we may expect a renewal of hostilities.

In Clitheroe last night new potatoes were selling five pounds for sixpence, so I got some for my dinner and came home again.

JULY

3. We have had a week of very cold and wet weather, which has kept back the hay harvest. The news from America gives an account of General Grant moving round to the other side of Richmond and that he had two days hard fighting at Petersburg with very little advantage. He lost about 8000 men, but he captured the outworks and 21 cannon with 1200 prisoners, which is the latest news from him. In Georgia General Sherman is stopped by the heavy rains, but he had captured a very important position from the rebels who had made seven desperate assaults to retake it, and were repulsed every time with great loss, and General Polk was killed. He was a bishop, but laid aside his mitre and girt on the sword in support of slavery and rebellion, and was shot like a dog in an unimportant skirmish. The latest news from General Hunter—he was very near Lynchburg, fighting every foot of the road. In Europe hostilities have commenced in Denmark and the Prussians have defeated the Danes with great loss. The Prussians are about six to one of the Danes, so they have no glory in their victories. All things else are quiet, with the exception of Russia who are transporting thousands of Poles every week to Siberia since the Polish insurrection was put down. I was in Clitheroe last night. It was very wet, and new potatoes was a penny a pound.

10. It has been very fine warm weather since Wednesday, and a great deal of hay has been got in in good condition. The news from America gives an account of a battle with a division of General Grant's army, who had gone to destroy the Weldon and Petersburg Railway, when they were met by a superior force of rebels under General Hill, and after fighting all night they had to retreat with a loss of 2000 men and 4 cannon; while another defeat has been sustained under General Sherman in Georgia. He made an assault upon a strong position of the rebels and was repulsed with a loss of 2500 men. General Hunter, after accomplishing all he was ordered to do, and defeating the enemy in every engagement, but running short of ammunition and provisions, he had to retreat followed by the rebels. The latest accounts says Gen. Grant is besieging Petersburg and destroying all the railways running into Richmond. In Denmark the Prussians are taking every place they come to, the Danes offering very little resistance. In Parliament the Tories brought forward a motion for a vote of censure upon the Government for the way they have treated the Danish question. The debate lasted all week, and on a division the Ministers had a majority of 18. There is no other news of importance this week.

17. It has been very fine and very hot weather all week, and a great deal of hay has been got in the very best condition. The news from America says there has not been much fighting but plenty of

skirmishing every day, and destroying railroads which run into Richmond. In Europe there is a prospect of peace, as the latest news is to that effect that Denmark is willing for an armistice to settle terms of peace. There is very little else of importance.

24. There has been another fine week and the hay harvest is nearly over. The news from America gives an account of a rebel raid into Maryland, plundering for horses, cattle and provisions, and destroying railroads. But the latest news says they are retreating, closely pursued by the Federals. Grant is besieging Petersburg, and Sherman has again defeated the rebels in Georgia. It is thought that the war is over for the present in Denmark, as there is to be a conference to be held in Vienna to settle upon a treaty of peace. There is nothing else of any importance. I went up to Clitheroe last night, and new potatoes was selling at five pound for threepence.

AUGUST

7. There has not been much war news this last fortnight. The news from America gives an account of the rebel raid into Maryland, where they got about five thousand horses and three thousand head of cattle, but being closely pursued, and a little hard fighting, great numbers have been recaptured, with above one hundred waggons and several hundred prisoners; and the latest news says that Gen. Sherman had captured Atlanta, the stronghold of the south, while Gen. Grant is still before Petersburg, preparing for a siege. In Denmark an armistice has been agreed too for six months, so everything is quiet. In England the hay harvest is over and corn harvest has commenced, and new potatoes is selling at ninepence a score.

14. This has been a fine warm week and we stopped yesterday as the engine wanted repairs, so I whitewashed and cleaned the house and today I am very stiff and tired. The latest news from America shews that Sherman has not captured Atlanta but that he has invested it with a view to make it surrender; and Gen. Grant has blown up a fort at Petersburg with a rebel regiment and had taken the outer line of defences. There is nothing else of importance.

28. There has not been much news this last fortnight, but it seems that after Grant had blown up the rebel fort at Petersburg and had taken the outer line of works, they made an assault upon the inner line and were repulsed with a loss of 6000 men, and had to retreat back to their own lines. Since then there has been nothing done in that quarter and things are just the same as they were at Atlanta. But at Mobile the Federals have destroyed the rebel fleet and captured Fort Gaines when the rebels evacuated Fort Powel and then blew it up, so we may look for something soon from there. At our mill we have had had two turn outs for bad work. It has been getting worse all summer untill we could stand it no longer, and the last time we were out we stopped out all day, when the Master told the deputation that waited upon him that he

would work his present stock of cotton up and then he would buy better sorts and have as good work as any in Clitheroe. It is shameful the work we have in at present. I had only six shillings this last week with very hard work, and there was some had less than me; and then our machinery is running very slow owing to the great drought as Ribble is very near dry. We have had frosty nights and warm days this last fortnight, and harvest has been commenced. There were thirty mills stopped in Blackburn this last week for want of water, and will not start again until wet weather sets in. I don't know that there is anything else of importance.

SEPTEMBER

11. We have had a week of very wet weather which was much wanted. The news from America does not contain much war news. There has been plenty of skirmishing and the Federals have captured Reams Station on the Weldon railroad, which is one of the lines running into Richmond. Things are much about the same at Atlanta and Mobile, but the principle news from America just now is the coming election for President, because it depends upon which of the candidates is chosen whether there will be peace or a continuance of the war, and as the position of the parties are about evenly balanced there is no knowing yet how things may be, because if there should be peace, then the price of cotton must come down two shillings per pound, and that is the reason why the cotton trade is so bad just now. The merchants will not buy cloth, as they expect the price will come down one half, and the Manufacturers will not buy cotton for the same reason. There are several mills in Lancashire begun to run short time and some are stopping altogether. At our mills the cotton was done last Tuesday and no signs of any coming. There is none working now but weavers, and if no cotton comes, why then, we must stop next, so everything has a black look—and winter coming on!

18. Another wet week and bad prospects for trade. We got as much cotton last week as kept the mill running two days and a half, and as cotton has come down four pence per pound it is thought we may get some more. The news from America gives a full account of the capture of Atlanta and defeat of the rebels, also the capture of Fort Morgan at Mobile; while on the other hand the rebels have recaptured Reams Station after a bloody battle which cost them above 5000 men, but as the Federals still hold four miles of the railway the rebel victory is of no use to them. The Chicago convention have met and have put General M'Clellan in nomination as President in opposition to Abraham Lincoln, so now both sides are fairly at work, and as the election comes off on the fourth of November the cotton trade in the meanwhile will be greatly depressed until the result is known.

25. We have had some fine weather these days, and harvest is nearly over. There has not been much news from America this

week, but the latest news says that both Grant and Lee are concentrating their armies upon the Weldon Railway, as Lee says he is determined to recapture it if it should cost him every man he has, and Grant says that he will hold it while he has a man left, as it is the only means of compelling Richmond to surrender. So we may look for a bloody battle very soon. The cotton trade is getting worse every day. There is no market whatever, and mills are closing every day. The weft we have had this last week is worse than ever, but we are forced to put up with it, as we don't know how soon we will have to stop altogether.

OCTOBER

2. It has been very fine all week and things are looking very bad. At our mill they are all working three days a week, except the weavers, who are yet on full time; but as the material is very bad they make very little wages. I have given up my odd loom and I find that two is as many as I can manage with such bad weft. There is a complete stagnation in trade, both in the cotton and cloth market, and nothing doing. The news from America gives an account of another great battle in which the rebels under Gen. Early were defeated with great slaughter by Gen. Sheridan. The rebels lost about 8000 men, including five Generals killed, while the Federal loss is about 3000 men and one General killed. The Presidential election is proceeding, and both sides seem confident of success.

9. Another fine week and very little doing. There has been nothing but the weavers working at our mill this week. All the rest are doing nothing, but they have got some cotton which will last three days, and all have to start tomorrow morning. The latest news from America gives another account of the defeat of the rebels under Gen. Early. Gen. Sheridan pursued him from Winchester, where the last battle was fought, to Fishers Hill where he again defeated him, capturing 16 cannon; but we must wait for another mail before we get the details. There is great distress all through Lancashire at present owing to so many mills stopping, and Clitheroe will soon be as bad as anywhere else.

16. We commenced short time last Monday, and on Thursday we stopped altogether and does not know when we will start again. The cotton that was bought last week—about 40 bales—fell a penny a pound about two hours after he had bought it, and he will buy no more until the market settles. I should have gone to Preston this morning but it was so wet, but I shall go tomorrow if all be well. There is very little more news from America. Grant has pushed his lines nearer to Richmond, capturing a great many cannon and prisoners. There is [not] much else at present.

23. We have been stopped all week and likely for stopping a little longer as there is no cotton bought yet, although it has fallen twopence per pound last week, but in the cloth market there is nothing doing whatever. I went to Preston last Monday but only

to find that my brother and family had left last Whitsuntide owing to the mill they were working in stopping. They have gone to Dolphinholme near Lancaster and never sent me word. I saw McMurray and family, who gave me all the information, so I found it was no use stopping there so I walked all the way to Blackburn [10 miles] and took the train to Clitheroe. It has been very stormy all week and we have had little pleasure. I applied with several others to the Relief Committee yesterday and got three shillings, and our Masters gave every hand two shillings, so we are not so badly off this week, whatever they may do next week. It was the great fair yesterday, and a very poor one it was owing to the stormy weather and so many people out of work. The news from America is much about the same as last week, very little doing on either side. The friends of Mr. Lincoln say they are sure of winning the election by a large majority.⁽⁶⁾

30. We commenced work last Thursday and started full time, as our Masters have bought a large supply of cotton which will last a few weeks; and the cloth market is a trifle better this last week and it is thought that it has got a turn for the better. The news from America this week is not of much importance. Sheridan has again defeated Early in the Shenandoah valley, capturing nine cannon and 400 prisoners, with very little loss. The public mind is taken up with the Presidential contest, both sides say they are sure of winning, but in a week or two we shall know all about it. There is nothing else of any importance.

NOVEMBER

6. The weavers have been on full time all week, but the rest of the hands have only had four days and the markets are as gloomy as ever. The news from America gives an account of another battle near Strasburg in the Shenandoah valley. Gen. Longstreet had reinforced Early's army and took the command. He attacked the Federal army and drove it two miles, capturing twenty cannon, when Gen. Sheridan coming up reformed the retreating army and charged the rebels, driving him several miles with fearful slaughter, and capturing fifty cannon and a great number of prisoners and upwards of a hundred waggons. There is nothing else of importance.

DECEMBER

4. There is very little news of any kind lately that I have made no note of it. Lincoln has been re-elected President of America and there has been nothing but skirmishing since, and it is likely that there will not be much done until spring. At home we have nothing but stormy weather and bad work, and a poor prospect for Christmas.

[And on that dismal note the Diary ends, halfway down the last page of the book.]

⁽⁶⁾ They did—2,216,076 for Lincoln and 1,808,725 for M'Clellan.