

THE DIARY OF JAMES GARNETT OF LOW MOOR,  
CLITHEROE, 1858-65: PART 2 THE AMERICAN CIVIL  
WAR AND THE COTTON FAMINE, 1861-65

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JAMES GARNETT'S DIARY for the period of the cotton famine contains a similar range of information to that for the earlier years: comments on the weather, local events, family and personal interests and activities, national and international affairs, developments at the mill, the state of trade in the cotton industry, other business interests of the Garnett family. There is, however, a particular emphasis on the effects of the war in America and the Diary regularly records the news from there, the state of raw cotton supply, with details of stocks imported from different parts of the world, the state of the markets for yarn and cloth. It is possible to learn from it a great deal about how one Lancashire firm managed during this difficult period. As in the earlier years there is the added interest of being able to compare what Garnett wrote, at least for part of the time, with the comments of John O'Neil (John Ward), the Low Moor weaver, portions of whose Diary have also survived.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately the latter gave up making entries on 8 June 1862 and did not resume until 10 April 1864, so that there is a gap when the effects of the cotton famine were about at their worst.

A reminder of the Garnett family situation may be helpful. At the beginning of 1861 the firm was in the hands of Thomas Garnett, aged 62, and his two sons: William, born in 1825, and James, the diarist, born in 1828. Thomas and his wife, Susannah, lived at Low Moor House, adjoining the mill, with their children, including William until his marriage at the end of the year, and two younger brothers, Jeremiah born in 1836, and Gustav born in 1840. James had married in 1856 Emma, daughter of Henry Newstead of Otley, Yorks., and lived at Waddow Hall in Waddington on the opposite bank of the river Ribble to the mill. The Hall still remains, occupied by the Girl Guides' Association, but the mill has now unfortunately been demolished.



Figure 3

JAMES GARNETT AT WADDOW HALL

*Photo by William Stott, The Grove, Ilkley*

THE AMERICAN WAR, THE COTTON FAMINE AND  
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

*The Changing Scene, January–August 1861*

James Garnett looked on 1860 as a year of good trade, but consequently a year in which hands were 'almost unmanageable'. John O'Neil emphasised the prosperity in his closing entry on 31 December 1860: '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.' The first half of 1861 saw a complete change: the start of the American civil war, a growing shortage of raw cotton and a rise in price, a difficulty at the same time in marketing both yarn and cloth as a result of over-production,<sup>3</sup> and a transformation in industrial relations typified by the strike at Low Moor in February and March.

The Diary contains plenty of evidence of the raw cotton situation as well as of the problem at the selling end of the business. On 3 January Garnett noted that 'The total receipts of cotton at all the ports in America fall short of last year's crop by 400,000 bales, this will tell seriously on prices here.' Twice in February the firm cancelled all orders for cotton. On 28 March news by the *Adriatic* was that the receipts of cotton were 690,000 bales less than in 1860 and by 27 May the figures were 895,000 bales less and exports to Great Britain 359,000 less. By then the war had started, Savannah, Charleston and New Orleans were blockaded '... so that the season may now be considered virtually at an end'. On 16 July Garnett noted 'the entire stoppage of business in cotton in America' and on the same day mentioned the export of 500 bales of Middling Orleans cotton from Liverpool to New York, 'a circumstance quite unprecedented'. Two days later he was in Liverpool and gave '... 8½d [per lb] for our quality of Orleans and 8⅛d and 8¼d for Uplands. Such cotton a month or five weeks ago was worth only 7¾d'. On 28 August he gave 9d. for Orleans. The previous day he heard '... that 15,000 bales of Surat were shipped to New York last week, so that if we have to supply the American market as well as our own, there is no saying what price cotton will get to'. Throughout this period the Liverpool cotton market was very active and the sales recorded in the Diary high, partly no doubt because of speculation as the price of cotton rose.

The problem of raw cotton supply came at a time when there was also difficulty in selling yarn and cloth, especially in the India and China markets on which the Garnetts greatly relied.

James Garnett regularly noted the state of the Manchester market, usually on Tuesdays and Fridays, and there is a monotonous similarity about the entries: 'exceedingly quiet', 'inactive', 'dull', 'very unsatisfactory', 'very discouraging'. The contrast between the rising price of the raw material and the dull market for finished goods was noted on 10 May: 'Manchester Market is dull in the extreme . . . while cotton daily gets dearer.' On 13 August Garnett identified the cause as overproduction: 'Manchester Market exceedingly flat, the reason is bad accounts from India, but the real cause is overproduction, prices are fully 3d per piece below the highest point.'

There are regular entries in the Diary of the events in America as news came in by the Atlantic steamers, usually about ten to fourteen days after the events themselves. At this stage Garnett showed no clear preference for one side or the other, but was almost entirely concerned with the possible effects on trade and cotton supply. In the early part of 1861 the main references were to the progress of secession—South Carolina on 7 January, Georgia on 18 January, Virginia on 7 May (dates of entry in the Diary). The inauguration of Lincoln as president in March led to an expression of hope of restoring the seceding states but on 26 April there followed the news of the start of hostilities: 'The papers today state that hostilities had commenced in the States and that Fort Sumpter [in Charleston Harbour, South Carolina] had been taken after 24 hours' bombardment, Jerry [James's younger brother] says it is not believed in Manchester that there has been any fighting but that the whole affair is a fabrication in order to get cotton up'—an interesting indication of the state of mind of cotton manufacturers and merchants in England. The news was however confirmed four days later and by early May Garnett was concerned about the possibility of England being drawn in. On 3 May he wrote: 'Everyone seems to think the Civil War in America will be a bloody one. It will be well if we can keep altogether out.' He quoted Russell, *The Times's* correspondent, on 28 May to the effect that ' . . . the South is greatly embittered against the North and they would like one of the Royal princes to rule over them'. The call of President Lincoln for 400,000 men, reported on 17 July, is said to have caused 'almost a panic in Liverpool'.

The effects of the commercial situation on the attitudes of employers and employees were reflected in the events leading to a strike at Low Moor Mill in February 1861. Already in January there had been evidence of a change of outlook on the part of the Garnetts, contrasting with their willingness to grant wage increases in 1860. On 10 January James Garnett wrote: 'Our

spinners have again been unsettled but I trust we have found a remedy to keep them quiet.' A week later there was talk of reducing weavers' wages and a further comment on the spinners: 'Several of our spinners have given notice today because we would not allow them to dictate as to what they would and would not do. I fancy the time is not far distant when they will be glad to work.'

The Clitheroe masters held a meeting to discuss the propriety of reducing wages on Monday, 21 January. Similar discussions were taking place in Blackburn and it was with reference to a meeting of Blackburn masters on 23 January that Garnett wrote '. . . it is now time for the masters to dictate their terms'. The following day the Garnetts gave notice to their weavers that they would reduce wages in a month's time. This was also mentioned by John O'Neil who attributed it to '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.' On the 28th the Clitheroe masters decided on a reduction of 10 per cent, '5 of it similar to Blackburn and 5 for local disadvantages [i.e., extra cost of transport, fuel etc.]'. Three days later they gave notice of a reduction for warpers and winders, following a similar move in Blackburn. The weavers' reaction in both Clitheroe and Blackburn was to ask that mills should run short time rather than reduce wages. A meeting in Clitheroe on 6 February addressed by Thomas Evans from the executive of the Weavers' Union led to the appointment of deputies from each mill who met the masters the following day. John O'Neil was appointed for Low Moor and attended meetings both on 7 and 13 February at which no progress was made, as the masters were determined to reduce more than Blackburn and the weavers' delegates were not even prepared to discuss local disadvantages. Garnett noted on 14 February that the Blackburn masters had resolved '. . . that rather than run short time on the terms dictated by their hands they would shut up altogether' and added 'If they continue out any length of time there will be rioting and destruction of property and it behoves the Mayor to be quite alive to the necessity of having a strong force at hand ready for any emergency.'

The weavers' strike at Low Moor began on 20 February, following a public meeting the previous day, reported by O'Neil, at which they determined to work four days a week at 5 per cent reduction and not to continue full time except at full price. The next day the mill was completely stopped, the spinners and card-room hands finishing at noon, and the Garnetts put in '. . . extra watchmen as we wish to be prepared should any bad

disposed people wish to do any damage'. There was a further meeting of masters and weavers' deputies on 25 February, but again with negative results, as the weavers persisted in asking for the Blackburn rates. A big public meeting was held by the weavers in Clitheroe the next day and on 27 and 28 February O'Neil was in Preston and Blackburn getting support for Clitheroe. The result was that on 2 March the union took £100 out of the bank and gave 1s. 6d. to every unemployed member. Further payments were made on 9 March and 19 March and O'Neil was busy visiting not only Blackburn and Preston, but also Accrington, Colne, Enfield and Haslingden, to get help for the Clitheroe strikers. This was at the time when the long Colne strike was still in progress and it is interesting that O'Neil persuaded the Enfield committee to give to Clitheroe one third of what they had collected for Colne. By 21 March Garnett detected signs that the weavers were weakening: 'I think in another week we shall be nearly at the end of the strike, many of them are evidently well tired of being out.' On the same day O'Neil wrote that he had met several Clitheroe people going to look for work elsewhere.

The masters made their offer of arbitration on 23 March and it was accepted on the 26th. There were to be three employers' representatives and three weavers' representatives with a neutral umpire. There was uncertainty for a day or two over the question of whether the weavers would return to work pending the arbitration and O'Neil reported on 28 March that, if they refused to return, the masters threatened they would not open the mills for three months. The prospect aroused little enthusiasm and the mill opened the following Monday, 1 April, when Garnett wrote: 'We had the mill bell rung this morning at the usual time but had a very poor sprinkling of weavers until after breakfast. On the whole we have had a tolerable number of hands, three quarters of the weavers, nearly all the Card Room hands and spinners.' O'Neil noted that over 100 looms were standing and that he was very tired after a day at the mill, having been out so long. The arbitrators met at the Swan Hotel, Clitheroe, on 4 February and elected the Rev. Fielding, incumbent of St James's Church, Clitheroe, umpire, a choice not greatly welcomed by the manufacturers according to Garnett: '. . . none of us seem to have a very high opinion as to Mr Fielding's capabilities as to forming a correct judgement of the items that will be submitted'. There was clearly great difficulty over evidence in the matter of local disadvantages and Garnett thought that they might have to provide figures of the cost of coal for three years back. It was on this question of local dis-

advantages that the arbitrators failed to agree and on 11 April put the whole matter into the hands of the umpire. Fielding claimed to have made his own enquiries as a result of which he fixed the difference between Blackburn and Clitheroe at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, but allowed the masters only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. O'Neil wrote that the masters were 'greatly enraged' by the decision, while Garnett thought that Fielding '. . . had evidently prejudged the case and would not go into the evidence'.

The resulting atmosphere in the mill is very well illustrated the next day when the new list of prices was given to the weavers. The narrow weavers were dissatisfied because they thought, according to O'Neil, that a farthing too much had been taken off them. There was a turn out and one of the union committee men, John Wood, was victimised. In Garnett's words '. . . as we found John Wood was the ringleader, William dismissed him at once'. O'Neil thought that the masters were now determined to get rid of all the committee men, especially for their part in resisting the 10 per cent reduction, and he recorded how the union established a victim fund to which those in employment contributed a penny a week (13 April). A postscript to the Low Moor strike came on 8 May when Garnett mentioned the end of the Colne strike: '. . . the hands have unconditionally surrendered to the masters' terms'.

#### *Short Time and Surat, August 1861–September 1862*

By the end of August 1861 the Garnetts were giving as much as 9d. per lb for American cotton and the price continued to rise for the remainder of the year, reaching a level of around 11d. per lb by the end of December. In his entry on 31 December James Garnett referred to the fact that Middling Uplands and Orleans cotton had been  $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. and  $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb in the previous January and that many people during the year had made profits from resale: '. . . the stock is 90,000 (bales) more than it was expected to be and the principal part of it is American. The cause of the discrepancy is attributed to the fact of many spinners having resold a great deal they had previously bought being tempted by the handsome profit. Liverpool this year has reaped a rich harvest while the consumer of cotton has had a most unsatisfactory twelve months.' Much greater increases in price were to come. By June 1862 American cotton was over 13d. per lb and thereafter there was a particularly rapid increase: Garnett quoted  $16\frac{3}{4}$ d. and  $17\frac{1}{3}$ d. on 4 July, over 19d. on 15 August, 26d. and  $26\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 29 August,  $28\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 29d. on 5 September.

Evidence from the Diary suggests that the Garnetts were

doing some reselling of raw cotton themselves. On 22 October 1861 James referred to 250 bales by the *Havelock* as being worth nearly 12d. per lb, '... a price hitherto unknown by me'. The next day he refused an offer of 12d. for this cotton because prices were still rising. What is presumably the same batch was referred to again on 2 January 1862 when an offer of 13d. was refused, but the following day James sold all 250 bales at this same price in Liverpool and then commented '... now we are disappointed as we were much pressed to sell it and then the market became excited and prices rose  $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb'.

Quite apart from price, there was the sheer problem of getting supplies at all, or at least supplies of adequate quality. The Garnetts were accustomed to using either Orleans, grown in Mississippi and Louisiana, or Uplands, grown in Georgia and South Carolina. Uplands were particularly suitable for weft, Orleans were among the best of American cottons and could be used for the finer counts of yarn. On 3 September 1861 Garnett referred to the high price of cotton at 9d. per lb '... for very poor grade as far as staple is concerned' and again on 19 September '... every week the selection gets poorer and poorer'. By this time the firm was buying Surat cotton from India as well as American and was using more of this new material by the spring of 1862. On 11 April Garnett wrote: 'We are using a much larger proportion of Surat cotton now, in our twist  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and we are thinking of increasing it still more.' This brought its own problems and on 23 July the entry ran: 'Our preparation of Surat cotton is not working satisfactorily, the winding and weaving are most inferior.' O'Neil similarly noted the difficulties of working with yarn made from Indian cotton, calling it '... such rubbish as I never saw in my life' on 8 January 1862. The price of Indian cotton rose as supplies became more difficult. In October 1861 Garnett paid 10d. per lb for Surat but in September 1862 the price was 17d. for the same quality. The firm continued to purchase Indian cotton throughout the period of the war and after. The types mentioned are Broach and Dhollerah from the Bombay area, Comptah and Oomrawuttee from the Central Provinces. The fibres were not so uniform as those of American cottons, there was more dirt, and they could not be used for finer counts except in combination with cotton of finer quality like American or Egyptian.

The high price of cotton and the shortage of supply combined with difficult trading conditions for yarn and cloth led eventually to a decision to run short time. The decision was taken in consultation with the other Clitheroe masters, the first mention in the Diary being after a meeting on 29 August 1861 at which five

of the local manufacturers, including Garnetts, agreed to run short time provided Dewhursts of Salford Bridge Mills would do the same. The next day there was definite agreement to run four days a week and O'Neil mentioned that the weavers got notice of this on 31 August. The new times began on Monday, 2 September, a day on which Garnett also wrote that partridge shooting had started and his father and his brother Jerry had killed six and a half brace. O'Neil noted short working throughout the autumn and the general background was one of commercial gloom. On 3 September Garnett reported that '... business is almost entirely suspended . . . the market in Manchester is wretched in the extreme . . . some people say it is the worst day ever known'.

The position about short-time running varied from time to time. On 19 September 1861 the firm decided to run the weavers full time so that they could find the spinners employment for four days a week: '... we have so many narrow looms stopped that our yarn accumulates'. It looks as if this may represent an effort on the part of the Garnetts to maintain at least a reasonable level of employment in spite of commercial difficulties. On 3 October they started a 42-hour week,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hours per day Monday to Thursday inclusive, 8 hours on Friday. There was even occasional Saturday running as on 12 October when they wanted to complete some orders for cloth. By early November short time was becoming more widely prevalent and some mills were stopping altogether. On 8 November Garnett wrote: 'Workpeople will now begin to feel the effect of short time as the days become darker and as very few indeed will have made any provision for the time of need. Great suffering will be the result.' By 14 November the card room was being run 40 hours a week and all the narrow looms were stopped. In January and February 1862 there were stoppages because the cotton stock at the mill had run out and, in the prevailing market conditions, there was no incentive to buy any more. On 27 January, 'Almost all our spinners and card room hands have been stopped today as we have no cotton and as the loss is now so great in spinning and manufacturing we are not very anxious to buy.' Garnett had calculated on 23 January that yarn cost  $16\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb to spin and was selling at no more than  $14\frac{1}{2}$ d. The spinners and card-room hands were stopped again on 30 January and on 28 February for the same reason. At this time the mill was generally running only from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the spinners stopped entirely on Saturday. A return of mills in Clitheroe at the end of September 1862 recorded in the Diary, suggests that 1,308 people were working full time, 851 were working short time and

549 were unemployed, while Bulcocks at Brewery Mill had been stopped since 7 April.

Wages were further reduced. A move to reduce spinners' wages started in Blackburn and on 24 September 1861 Garnett mentioned the possibility of a turn-out '... at which many of the masters will be delighted'. The spinners at Low Moor had their wages reduced by 5 per cent on 14 October and card-room rates were also lowered. On 24 October a meeting of manufacturers decided to reduce weavers' wages by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent: '... there is no fear of a turn-out as it would suit us very well to stop altogether'. Both Garnett and O'Neil make it clear that weavers' earnings suffered not only from reduced rates but also from the poorer quality of yarn which forced them to give up extra looms.

The Diary continued to include references to the main events in America and their impact on the cotton trade. These give us an opportunity to see the course of the war through the eyes of someone living at the time to whom the outcome was uncertain and therefore the events themselves all the more a subject for speculation. The direct relationship to business interests is very strong. On 5 September 1861 Garnett recorded that '... we hold a very large stock of cloth and if the American difficulty is suddenly settled we shall lose a serious sum of money'. In the later part of the year and the early part of 1862, the *Trent* affair, when two Southern agents were arrested by the Federal navy on board a British ship, received considerable attention. James's first reaction was the possibly predictable one of indignant patriotism, when he wrote on 29 November: 'We have already put up with many insults' and on 3 December 'The all-engrossing question is will America be foolish enough to go to War with us. Many people think it will.' A week later opinion had moved towards peace and '... under this feeling the Manchester Market has recovered from the extreme state of depression'. The settlement and the handing over of the Confederate commissioners caused 'great excitement' in Liverpool on 9 January 1862, with a sale of 25,000 bales of cloth at an advance in price of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1d. per lb. O'Neil also followed the *Trent* affair with a main concern lest England should be involved in fighting which would still further threaten the cotton supply.

Federal successes in February and March 1862, including the capture of Fort Donnellson reported on 5 March, caused concern because they might '... materially reduce the value of our stocks as there are many people prophesying a speedy termination of American hostilities and consequently a supply of cotton'. Jeremiah Garnett reported 'almost a panic' in Manchester two days later. O'Neil appeared more pleased with the news and

indeed generally reveals Federal sympathies, for example by always referring to the Confederates as 'the rebels'. On 20 March Garnett noted the decision of the Southern Congress to burn cotton and tobacco rather than let it fall into Federal hands. The capture of New Orleans by the Federal army in May again caused great uncertainty. Garnett received the news on 12 May and reported the burning of cotton supplies by the Confederates. Sales of cotton at Liverpool were immediately reduced to a very small amount and on 19 May Garnett wrote that 'The Federal successes in America are quite putting a stop to business here.' On 14 May, in relation to fighting at Yorktown and Corinth, he even went so far as to say 'I hope the Southerners may win', though it is difficult to know how much this represents genuine preference as against concern for the commercial consequences of Federal success. Cotton prices fell, but later in the month, when it appeared there was no likelihood of any immediate end to the war and therefore of increased cotton supplies, the market steadied again. Again in July and August 1862, when matters were not going too well for the Federals and a decision had been taken to introduce conscription, James Garnett seemed to look forward to a collapse: 'I think the Northern States will be entirely broken up by taxation and conscription', he wrote on 21 August, 'Thousands are crossing the frontier into Canada and escaping by steam boats.' In September he quoted rumours of the North being on the point of asking for an armistice as the Confederate troops advanced into Maryland. Once again the outcome of the fighting had its commercial implications as reported on 23 September: 'The uncertainty as to the result of the battle has affected Manchester today, very little or no business has been done. If the South win prices will go down, and should the North gain the day they will rise, as it would have a tendency to prolong the war.'

*The Bleak Winter, October 1862–April 1863*

The evidence of the Diary suggests that the worst period of the cotton famine at Low Moor was the winter of 1862–3. This is confirmed by John O'Neil, for, when he resumed keeping his diary in April 1864, he reported that the mill he worked in was stopped all the previous winter and that he received only three shillings a week paid by the Relief committee. Just how long the mill was in fact closed is not altogether clear. On 18 October 1862 James Garnett recorded that the only hands employed were the weavers who lived at Low Moor and on 21 November he wrote: 'We have got all our cotton worked up out of the Card Room. In a short time the spinners will have finished.' On

3 January 1863 the mill was almost entirely closed with not more than sixty hands at work, but later in the month the firm bought some yarn and restarted. 'We have put Low Moor people into good spirits today', Garnett wrote on 27 January, 'as William has bought some yarn and we are beginning to work again, though the prospects are anything but cheering.' Six days earlier he had noted that another manufacturer, Mr Taylor of Enfield, was trying to persuade some of their workers to leave as Low Moor Mill was stopped. On 2 February some of the card-room hands went to work for the first time for seventeen weeks: 'They appear glad enough to earn their bread instead of going to Messrs Blackley and Co [the relief committee] for their begrudged pittance'. By the later part of March there was even talk of difficulty in getting hands, especially weavers, a difficulty remarked again on 16 April with the comment: '. . . they have got work at other places, owing to our stopping'. Certainly by that time trade appeared to have revived sufficiently for the mill to be working regularly, if not full time.

A great many of the entries in the Diary from October 1862 onwards relate to the provision of relief for those who were out of work or otherwise distressed. In Clitheroe as in the other cotton towns a local relief committee was established to collect subscriptions and to supplement the help given by the poor law authorities. Some relief would be given in cash, some in kind—food, clothing, bedding, fuel—and the committee also organised schools for the unemployed boys and girls. James Garnett noted the meeting held in the council chamber on 8 October at which the mayor was requested to call a public meeting to enable a committee to be formed. Some of the contributions by local manufacturers and others were mentioned on 22 October: 'Mr Thomas Bulcock, Brewery Mill, has given £120, Mr Fort [M.P. for Clitheroe] £200, Mr Anderton [vicar of Clitheroe] £20, A. W. & R. Dewhurst [Salford Bridge Mills] £50.'

The Garnetts started by providing their own relief. Mr Anderton came to the mill on 18 October, presumably as part of an enquiry into the amount of distress in the town undertaken by the Relief committee, to ask how much they intended giving their hands. On 20 October they started a school at Low Moor for young men and women out of work, with about 150 present in the afternoon. The following day they began making soup and on 22 September distributed about 50 quarts '. . . made from 26lb of beef, 30lb of whole and 25lb of crushed peas and 34lb of pearl barley. We sold a quantity at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d per quart and gave the remainder.' Further quantities of soup as well as meal and bread were distributed during the next three days and on Saturday,

25 October, James Garnett wrote to George Whittaker, the relieving officer '... to say what we have distributed at Low Moor was to be in addition to any parochial relief and that so long as we paid rates we should expect relief to be granted to those in need'. They were still distributing food the next week and on Monday, 27 October, '... made a list of the number in each family and the amount of weekly earnings of those we relieved'.

In November the Garnetts joined the Relief committee and subscribed £100 to the funds and by 24 November the total had reached nearly £1,700. On 10 December the committee decided to pay girls attending sewing classes '... at the rate of 2s 0d and 2s 6d per week, but this is to reckoned as earnings'. The following day Geldard, one of the Garnetts' supervisory staff, went to a committee meeting to choose the masters and mistresses for the Clitheroe and Low Moor schools, so that presumably by this date the school started by the Garnetts had come under the control of the committee. On Christmas eve all those in receipt of relief got an extra 8d. per head '... to enable them to get a good dinner tomorrow'. There were the 'usual tea parties' at Low Moor on Christmas day, the firm giving 'the whole of the materials' and all scholars and teachers getting free tickets. By the first week in January the Clitheroe committee was giving nearly £40 a week to Low Moor, and on 17 January they distributed 420 lb 'of good American bacon' in the village. The Garnetts continued their own investigations into the needs of their workers as on 1 December 1862 when 'Geldard and Lambert [two of the mill supervisors] inspected the houses at Low Moor as to who are in want of blankets. They found a great many needed and by many people who ought to have been in much better circumstances.'

There were references to other relief funds. A Central Relief Committee was established in Manchester in June 1862 and on 11 November Garnett noted that they were making '... large grants to the various towns requiring aid'. He also described a county meeting at Manchester town hall on 2 December 1862 held for the purpose of increasing the relief fund with the lord lieutenant, Lord Sefton, in the chair. 'After the meeting the enormous sum of £130,000 was subscribed. Lord Derby gave £500.' The Clitheroe operatives benefited from the National Mansion House Fund (Lancashire & Cheshire Operatives Relief Fund) inaugurated by the lord mayor of London, which raised over £500,000 distributed in grants to local relief committees. The Clitheroe committee, as noted in the Diary, received £250 on 15 November 1862 and a further £250 on 17 January 1863.

Clitheroe also had its share of the cargo of the *George Griswald*, a food ship provided by the American International Relief Committee of New York. Garnett recorded the arrival of the ship in Liverpool on 9 February 1863: 'She has brought provisions from New York for the distressed Lancashire and Cheshire operatives. Her cargo consists of 13,236 barrels of flour, 315 boxes of bread, 50 barrels of pork, 167 bags of Indian Corn, 125 barrels of bread, 102 boxes of bacon, 3 tierces [casks] and 2 bags of rice, 1500 barrels of flour, 500 barrels of Indian Corn. The value of all these is about £16,000.' The Clitheroe portion was 40 barrels of flour which arrived on 18 February and were distributed as part of the weekly allowance to families receiving relief.

James Garnett had misgivings about the effects of relief and some of the committee clearly had difficulty in deciding whom to help and how much to give. There were certainly cases of fraudulent practice, as in any such situation. On 6 December 1862 the Clitheroe Committee reduced the amount given to large families to less than 2s. per head per week and the comment in the Diary was 'Many of the people in the large towns prefer relief to working.' This theme recurred several times. On 13 December Garnett wrote: 'Money pours in abundantly for the relief of the distressed and unless it is judiciously given, we shall have many people who will never work again. Some manufacturers in Blackburn have been stopped for want of hands, although there are nearly 20,000 out of work.' On 9 January 1863 there was a reference to the Clitheroe committee curtailing their expenses and dealing with hands who would not work when required: '. . . they began in far too liberal a manner'. A man named Josias Smith was brought before the committee on 21 January for getting relief when he had a considerable amount of money in hand and Garnett added that one or two people in Blackburn had been imprisoned for making false statements about their earnings. When the mill was working again in April he complained that '. . . the weavers are both careless and idle. They have lived so long upon charity that now they have the opportunity they will not work. Thousands have been made vagrant and will never work again'. Again on 20 June when there was an entry relating to the public works bill, then before Parliament, which enabled loans to be provided for Lancashire and Cheshire towns to undertake public works and improvements and so give employment, he commented 'The quantity of unemployment is now very much reduced. Although there are many hands yet out of work, they prefer playing to working Surat.' He was also opposed to emigration schemes which gave

assistance to those willing to go to Australia, New Zealand or North America. There was a Manchester Emigration Society, the Mansion House committee contributed to the Victorian Emigrants' Assistance Society, there were local emigration societies. Garnett's view was expressed on 2 July 1863 when he was again complaining about the weavers being lazy: 'The interruption to trade through the Cotton Famine has had a most injurious effect upon workpeople and it will be years before they become settled. If any emigration scheme is sanctioned by the government and Relief Fund Committees, hands will be past dealing with.'

During this winter period there was no sign of any improvement in the cotton-supply situation at least as judged from the Diary. On 28 October 1862 Garnett included a report from the British Consul in Charleston, South Carolina, that '... there is about 3,950,000 bales of cotton in the Southern States. He estimates the undestroyed portion of the 1861 crop at 1,750,000 bales, the crop of 1862 not picked at 1,500,000 and the remainder of the 1860 crop at 700,000. He says that a portion or the whole of this may be destroyed at any moment by the Southern people.' There was a reference to the arrival in Liverpool of cotton from Peru brought across the isthmus of Panama on 20 December. Although the price of American cotton in the early part of 1863 was not quite at the peak of September 1862, the average was between 21d. and 22d. per lb. Moreover on 26 March Garnett remarked that the prospects for a better supply from India were not good: '... there is less on the way and the quality I fancy much inferior'.

To add to the gloom there was an outbreak of smallpox in Clitheroe in the early part of 1863. It was first noted in the Diary on 23 February and was still 'very prevalent' on 8 May. The epidemic reached Low Moor on 27 March, when two cases were recorded in one house. On 2 April James Garnett made an agreement with W. E. Musson of Church Street, Clitheroe, his family doctor, '... that he will vaccinate all the Low Moor people who wish. We pay him £5.'

#### *The Slow Recovery, April 1863–December 1864*

By the end of April 1863 Low Moor Mill was running longer hours and was even open some Saturdays. The market for yarn and cloth was better. On 8 May Garnett remarked: 'There exists a good enquiry in Manchester for almost all classes of goods.' He was much concerned about labour supply, especially if emigration were to reduce the available pool: '... where hands are to come from when wanted I do not know' (16 April),

'... when times improve servants will be masters' (1 June). Business was more difficult in June and July and on 22 July there was talk of short time and closures: 'I hear of people commencing short time and making preparations for closing and certainly unless prices materially alter we shall be obliged to weave much less.' The entries in August and September struck a more optimistic note, with talk of being 'pretty well off for hands' on 20 August and a favourable report on 3 September: 'We have got into a much better way at the mill now and our production in weaving is very much increased. We have some weavers with 11s 5½d earned on a pair of looms. Our warpers have warped upwards of 18,000 lbs of twist. Our hands seem content and cheerful and are at home with Surat.' Again on 17 September '... our production of yarn and cloth are greater now than they have been since we used Surat so extensively'.

By November 1863 Garnett was again talking about the possibility of short time and the early part of 1864 saw a deterioration in the market. On 12 January he wrote 'Manchester Market is lifeless. There is no inquiry and any little business which is done is to supply urgent and immediate requirements.' A week later he described the market as 'quite paralysed' and by the end of the month the mill was running shorter hours: 'We are now running our spinners and Card Room hands from light to dark, as we have so much yarn beforehand which we cannot sell'. When John O'Neil resumed his Diary on 10 April he said he had not earned a shilling a day the past month and on 17 April he reported a 'weary week of bad work', earning 7s. 3½d. off three looms. He had given up his third loom by 1 May and commented on 'bad work' throughout May and indeed for most of the summer. Difficulties with Surat cotton caused two turn outs in August and, according to O'Neil, the weft they were using was worse than ever at the end of September, in spite of a promise by the masters, reported on 28 August, that when the present stock was worked up they would buy better sorts. On 8 August Garnetts agreed to pay the spinners for extra twist: 3d. per lb up to 40s counts and 4d. per lb for higher counts.

In the autumn of 1864 there was something of a commercial crisis with a fall in the prices of both yarn and cotton, partly related to the possibility of negotiations between the Confederates and Federals in America, depending on the outcome of the presidential election. Yarn was reported down 3d. to 5d. per lb on 6 September, the Manchester market was 'completely stagnant' on 13 September and there was talk of short time. The next day Garnett wrote: 'Cotton is completely floored today, it is gone down, down, down and is 1d lower than yester-

day. I see nothing to stop it falling further.' On Sunday 11 September O'Neil reported that the cotton at the mill had been finished the previous Tuesday and only the weavers were working. There were many failures and on 19 October Garnett commented: 'We are going through a dreadful crisis, when it will end no one seems to know.' At the beginning of October all except the weavers were working only three days a week and the mill was stopped all week from Monday, 17 October, though, according to Garnett, this was mainly because they were widening the cut where the water ran on to the newly-installed turbine. The Relief committee met to distribute money on 21 October and the following day Garnetts gave '... 2s 0d each to all the hands who work in the mill. This is in addition to the money they have received from the Relief Committee which will be of great assistance to all.' O'Neil received this 2s. in addition to 3s. from the Relief committee. The market steadied later in the month, the Garnetts bought a large supply of cotton and the mill began running full time again on 25 October. The re-election of Lincoln as president, reported on 21 November, '... sent them wild in Liverpool, cotton has advanced 1½d to 2d per lb. I bought Egyptian on 24 October at 22d which I could not replace today at 30d. I paid 19d for Dhollerah not equal to the cotton I bought at 14d on 24 October.' The markets were generally better in November and December and President Lincoln's message, received on 19 December, holding out no prospect of reconciliation, led to quite hectic business and much higher prices in Manchester.

The supply of raw cotton remained a major problem throughout the period. The price of American cotton was very high, as can be judged from James Garnett's weekly records. In April 1863 it was around the 21½d. to 22d. mark, over 23d. by August, 27d. to 27½d. at the beginning of October. Prices in the early part of 1864 remained around 27d. to 28d., but rose still higher during the summer to a peak of 31d. in August. There was the fall in the autumn already noted, but then prices rallied and at the end of the year were still around 26d. to 27d. Receipts and stocks of American cotton were also low, although Garnett makes it clear that some supplies were getting through. On 14 April 1864, as the war entered its fourth year, he wrote: 'There is... a tolerable import of American cotton now both by blockade running and from New York.' Manufacturers went over to other sources of supply: India, China, Egypt, Peru. Cotton from these areas also tended to increase in price. Indian Comptah cotton, which Garnetts used, was obtainable at 16d. in June 1863, but was selling at 22d. at the end of the year.

Egyptian cotton in 1864 cost anything from 28d. to 31d. per lb and rose as high even as 36d. in July of that year.

Quite apart from price levels and fluctuations, there was difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies of reasonable quality and the Diary is full of references to the problem for buyers in Liverpool and to the consequences at the mill. James Garnett was in Liverpool on 29 April 1863 and '... found cotton very hard to meet with, I mean such as does not contain 20% of sand'. He was annoyed on 7 May to find '... that a lot of 87 bales of cotton turn out so very much inferior to the samples. Some of it is perfect rubbish.' An entry on the next day illustrates the problem at the mill end: 'Our Surat turns out very badly... no one can reckon the loss in waste as no two bales are alike.' On 19 May there was a meeting in Manchester about the prevention of loss through fraudulently-packed cotton and large quantities of stones and an association was formed. The firm started to use Egyptian cotton in place of American in July 1863 and 51 bales were received on the 24th. In May 1863 they had investigated the possibility of putting in small rollers in order to use Surat more successfully but found '... the cost so great that we should scarcely be justified in going to the expense, for if the American War was ended no operatives would consent to use East India Cotton, however good it might be'. At the same time they tried China cotton (5 May) but decided it would not work satisfactorily.

In April 1864 Garnett again referred to the difficulty of buying good quality cotton. 'I have been in Liverpool today for about 3 hours', he wrote on the 21st, 'looking for suitable Surat cotton, but I have not bought a bale. I did not see a single parcel of good staple. I paid 28½d for Egyptian.' On 3 June he was talking again of using China in place of Surat and on 15 June reported that they were using a mixture of China and Egyptian for 44s and 30s weft. By the end of August they were producing 'exceedingly good' yarn from a mixture of half China, half Egyptian. There were still difficulties at the end of the year owing to the extra amount of size they were having to use on the warps and there was a sigh from the heart on 15 December: '... I wish we had no Surat'.

There were substantial entries relating to the progress of fighting in America. Many of these again relate primarily to the possible effect of events on the cotton trade and cotton supply, but others are less commercially biased and appear to reveal a sympathy with the Confederates rather than with the Federals. On 27 June 1863, for example, Garnett reported '... stirring news from America. The Confederates have again invaded Maryland

and are driving the Federals out of every place they attack. The whole of the North is panic-stricken. President Lincoln has asked for 200,000 more men. I should not be at all surprised if General Lee takes Washington and, if so, we shall have the beginning of the end.' On the other hand there was a much more mundane reaction on 13 July: 'Should Lee take Washington shirtings will fall 1s 0d per piece.' Again the repulse of the Federals at Charleston, reported on 8 August, brought the comment: 'Cotton, yarn and cloth will be firmer next week and more business done.' In May 1864, at the start of the campaign between Generals Lee and Grant, Garnett predicted that the Confederates would win (20 May). The unsuccessful invasion of Maryland by the Confederates in July followed by rumours of possible negotiations produced business uncertainty and on 4 August Garnett wrote: 'So far as we are concerned I mean to be quit of stocks of yarn, cloth and cotton and be prepared as well as we can for the time when it does come.' The presidential election and the Confederate defeats caused a commercial crisis in the autumn and again a note of sympathy with the South on 10 October: '... the Federals are getting the upper hand sadly'. The start of General Sherman's march through Georgia, first mentioned on 6 December, drew the comment. 'There has been a better feeling in Manchester today and if the next American news is not favourable to Sherman we shall continue to improve.'

#### *1865: the End of the War*

On 2 January James Garnett wrote down the news received via the *Canada*: '... the Confederates are sadly getting the worst of it. Sherman is at Savannah and will most probably take it.' This was at the end of his march through Georgia and news of the capture of Savannah and the destruction of 25,000 bales of cotton followed five days later: '... no doubt this intelligence will depress cotton here still further'. On 4 January the firm had sold some of their stock of Surat cotton at 19½d. '... which cost this price on 21 November'. They were no doubt anxious to sell before prices fell still further. By 9 January the news from America had '... completely paralysed the market for cotton in Liverpool. Prices have fallen ½d to 1d in Surats and a full 1d in Egyptian. I don't think it will ever get as high again.' By the end of the month there were rumours of peace, cotton prices were still lower and there was little doing in Manchester: 'We have not had an offer for either yarn or cloth', Garnett wrote on the 31st. On 15 February the news that Lincoln was reported to have gone to meet the Southern Commissioners to discuss peace proposals '... completely made a panic in Liverpool. Fair

Egyptians can be bought at 18½d or 19d.' They were around 23¾d. on 25 January. The negotiations came to nothing and the market improved temporarily but news received on 3 March of the evacuation of Charleston by the Confederates and further destruction of cotton again paralysed the Liverpool market. Broach cotton (a type of Indian) had fallen from 15½d. to 10d. per lb in a week.

The market steadied again and on 9 March Garnett wrote that '. . . cotton holders are in anxious suspense as to whether there will be a Federal or Confederate victory'. Two days later he reported that 'Many Southerners think the game is nearly played out' and the same day he bought Egyptian cotton at 15½d., could have bought China at 9½d. and even American at 15d. to 16d. By 5 April Egyptian cotton could be bought at 14d. and the firm's stocks of Egyptian and China were valued by Garnett at 13d. and 8d. per lb respectively on 13 April: '. . . and prices are still declining. There is to be terrible times yet before we get on to a satisfactory footing.' News of the raising of the American flag on Fort Sumpter, four years after it had been hauled down, followed on 14 April and the next day news of the defeat of Lee and the evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond. The surrender of Lee and the army of Northern Virginia was reported on 24 April, fifteen days after the event, and Garnett added '. . . the war is now virtually at an end'. The news of the general surrender of the Confederate armies came on 13 May, and of the capture of Jefferson Davis on 26 May.

During these last weeks of war comments on the work at the mill were generally favourable. On 9 February Garnett wrote: 'We are going on pretty well at the mill and have plenty of hands applying for work'. Again on 6 April 'We are going on very well at the mill' and on 27 April 'We are doing pretty well at the mill. Spinning is especially good, our weavers don't push at all.' On 18 May he was even more enthusiastic: 'Our production at the mill this week is much greater than we have had for a very long time. Many weavers have 10s 3d and some 11s 1d from a pair of looms. I have been in Liverpool today and bought about 90 bales of Egyptian cotton at 14½d. The demand continues on a most extensive scale. Spinners buy largely and for export there is much doing.'

This more prosperous state of affairs was soon reflected in new demands from the workers. On 24 May the firm agreed to pay the drawers 11s. 6d. per week: '. . . tomorrow the spinners will be at us for an advance for extra twist'. In fact it was the weavers who applied for an advance the next day and the Garnetts made enquiries about what other firms in Clitheroe

were doing, finding that Mercer & Hodgson of Holmes Mill were paying  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent more than them. On 31 May the Low Moor firm agreed to pay the Blackburn Standard List. The application from the spinners came on 8 June and on 19 June Garnett reported that 'The factory hands of all classes are very uneasy, seeking advances of wages.' The spinners got the Blackburn List as from 6 July. Reports on work at the mill continued to be good to the end of the year. On 2 November, for example, the entry ran: 'We continue to go satisfactorily at the mill, our spinning is excellent and we have no complaints from our weavers. We have plenty of hands their earnings are good, much better than others in the town.' Four days later he said the hands were working 'contentedly and cheerfully'. Again on 7 December: 'I am glad to report satisfactory of our carding, spinning and weaving. Our hands are comfortable and are earning well.' On 14 December many weavers were said to be earning 11s. 4d. off a pair of looms and '... we have not a word of grumbling throughout the mill'. The average earnings of the employees were recorded as 13s. 3d. in the week ending 23 December.

Although the events in America in the early part of 1865 led to a quite rapid fall in the price of raw cotton, this was not maintained once the war was over. The increased demand and the improved markets for yarn and cloth, together with the fact that American supplies were restored only slowly, led to increases in price of all types. By the beginning of June Garnetts were paying  $16\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $16\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb for their quality of Egyptian and the price reached 20d. before the end of the month. There was a fall in July and August to as low as 17d. at times, but prices rose again quite sharply in September and by 30 September the price was over 23d. The firm continued to use a mixture of Comtah and Egyptian cotton for twist, and a mixture of China and Egyptian for weft. The only evidence of change came at the end of the year when they began to use Peruvian instead of Egyptian. James Garnett paid  $22\frac{1}{4}$ d. and  $22\frac{1}{2}$ d. for good Peruvians in Liverpool on 18 December and on 27 December noted that they were just beginning to use Peruvians at the mill, on a day when he also reported lower crops and a plague of locusts in Egypt.

The supply of American cotton was only gradually restored and prices kept up until well after the end of 1865. It was not in fact until the summer of 1866 that the Diary contained information of a general lowering of prices. In the middle of June 1865 Middling Orleans was fetching 18d. per lb, the same price as at the beginning of March. On 25 July the Manchester Market was lifeless because of a report from the American Government that

there would be  $2\frac{1}{4}$  million bales of cotton. The stock at New Orleans was reported to be 85,000 bales on 30 August. At the end of September prices rose rapidly: 19d. and 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. on 22 September, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 23d. on 29 September, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 24 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. on 13 October. On 14 October Garnett noticed '... the first direct arrival of cotton direct from New Orleans were here [Liverpool] yesterday and by a strange coincidence the names of the ships were *Glad Tidings* and *Freedom*'. The stock of cotton in all ports was reported to be 33,000 bales on 10 November and there were 60,000 bales of American on the water. By this time prices were down to 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 21d., and were still at this level or a little higher at the end of the year. On Boxing Day Garnett reported news by the *Scotia* of large receipts of American cotton at the ports, but added 'Still shipments are not heavy'. The first indication of using American in quantity at the mill was on 22 February 1866, when Garnett reported that they were using two-thirds American and one-third Peruvian in their spinning.

#### THE MILL

There is evidence that during the cotton famine quite a considerable number of new mills were built and existing mills re-equipped.<sup>4</sup> Short time and closure provided an opportunity for making alterations to buildings or putting in new machinery, assuming financial resources were available. The Garnetts certainly took advantage of the opportunity and, in the absence of business papers, there are one or two entries in the Diary which at least indicate that the firm's financial situation was satisfactory. These entries relate to the annual meeting of the partners and run as follows:

- 5 February 1861 '... although not so good as last year by a long way the balance is pretty satisfactory.'  
 23 April 1862 '... the balance has proved equal to our expectations'.  
 25 February 1863 '... satisfactory considering the little we have run during the year'.

There is in addition evidence, which will be discussed below, of investments by the family in outside business concerns.

The total amount of new building, re-building and re-equipment carried out by the Garnetts during the years 1861-5 was impressive and continued a process started with the establishment of the new partnership of Thomas Garnett & Sons in 1858.<sup>5</sup> In the early part of 1861 a new steel boiler and another not quite new boiler were supplied by Daniel Adamson & Co. of Hyde, Cheshire. At the end of May James Garnett wrote to Joseph Whitworth & Co. of Manchester about new tools,

presumably for the mechanics' shop. Later in the year the blow room was partially re-equipped by Lord Brothers of Canal Street Works, Todmorden, an order being given on 28 August for two openers, one double beater and one single beater lap machine, though the machinery did not arrive until the following summer. The year 1862 saw the partners making preliminary enquiries about water turbines and at the end of the year a start was made on erecting a new mechanics' shop and a second weaving shed, located in the yard between the mill and the river Ribble. Work on the shed continued throughout 1863 and the first looms were run on 21 April 1864. During 1863 there was an increase in steam power, with the 'McNaughting' of (adding a high pressure cylinder to) the beam engine in the mill yard and the installation of a new horizontal compound engine supplied by Rothwells of Union Foundry, Bolton. A new engine house was also built and the engine first ran on 6 February 1864. Adamsons supplied another new boiler.

The new water turbine, supplied by MacAdams of Belfast, and replacing one of the old water wheels, started on 15 August 1864 and cost £435. At the end of the year work was in progress in installing new mules, new roving frames and new intermediate frames ordered from Platts of Oldham and this was not completed before March 1865. In the summer of 1865 work was started on a new chimney. On 5 June James Garnett wrote: 'We let our new chimney to build today, it will be 30 yards high and octagonal.' Almost certainly this was the chimney near the north end of the mill, which is shown on photographs taken in 1930.

Apart from building work and new machinery, there are some interesting entries relating to the running of the mill. Staff changes and problems featured from time to time. In January 1863 Richard Johnson, one of the supervisory staff, left to take up an appointment as manager of a large mill near Lille in France at a salary of £300 per annum. Christopher Geldard, who had been general superintendent of the mill since 1859, went on 21 May 1863 to work for Rylands & Sons in Manchester and was presented with the traditional timepiece. It is not stated whether he went to Rylands's warehouse in High Street or to their cotton mill in Gorton. Following his departure new spinning and weaving masters were appointed. On 21 August 1865 Garnetts were advertising for an engineer and millwright. A man named Stansfield was given the job but was dismissed on 6 December for 'not conducting himself satisfactorily'. A new engineer was appointed on 27 December at 30s. per week including overtime, following enquiries made by the spinning master, Bob Demain, in Walton-le-Dale.

There was an episode of crime in the factory in 1864. On 22 January James Garnett was ' . . . surprised to learn on my journey to Manchester . . . that a system of fraud is going on in some of the mills in Clitheroe and that somebody is stealing and disposing of yarn'. The following day he learned that the receivers of the stolen property, Dick Hanson of Waddington and one Suthers of Bacup, had been arrested in Blackburn and that 'Jim Robinson of Low Moor was drinking with them' the previous night. On Monday 25 January he went with Christopher Geldard to Blackburn to look at the stolen cops taken by the police: 'We also saw the two men who evidently were astonished and who confessed who had stolen them and where from. The cops are stolen from Low Moor by Henry Mitchell and Jim Robinson, who delivered them to Hanson & Co at the railway station. We at once telegraphed the police to apprehend them. They are now in custody.' The following day Mitchell and Robinson were brought before the magistrates and remanded. On 27 January Robinson 'turned approver' and became a witness for the prosecution when Mitchell, Hanson and Suthers were committed by the magistrates to Preston Sessions for trial the next day. All three were taken to the Preston House of Correction on 29 January and Geldard went to Preston on 23 February to give evidence at the trial.

#### OTHER BUSINESS INTERESTS

The Diary provides evidence of investments and business interests of the Garnetts quite apart from the Low Moor concern. There are numerous entries relating to the price of shares, especially railway, banking, insurance and marine shares. There are also specific notes of some purchases and sales. In May 1862 James Garnett was allocated 50 shares in the new Northern Counties Bank in Manchester, the promoters of which included his uncle Jeremiah and his brother William. This new venture was quickly combined with the Manchester & County Bank which opened business in York Street the same year.<sup>6</sup> At the beginning of 1863 he bought 100 shares in each of two insurance companies: the Thames & Mersey (who insured some of the victims of the *Alabama*) and the Liverpool Marine. In 1864 he became a shareholder in the new Lancashire Steel Company<sup>7</sup> started in Gorton, Manchester, that year to manufacture steel by the Bessemer process, first made public in 1856. The same year he bought 25 shares in the Sheepbridge Coal & Iron Company founded near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, in 1855 by William and John Fowler. At this time he was disposing of

shipping shares, selling 100 in the Australian & Eastern Navigation Company and an unspecified holding in the National Steam Navigation Company in February.

The Garnetts were more directly involved in a venture for the manufacture of steel by the Bessemer process in association with Daniel Adamson, who first made Bessemer steel boilers in 1860, and with Bessemer himself. The first reference was on 22 January 1862 when James's father, Thomas Garnett, went to stay with Daniel Adamson in Hyde: 'he wishes to see him about the making of steel'. Three days later James reported that arrangements were almost complete: 'My father or William, Gustav [his younger brother], Mr Adamson and Messrs Bensons are to be the company, in all 5.' On 27 January Gustav went with Daniel Adamson to Wigan to look at some coal which might be suitable for steel making. The next stage was to find a suitable site and on 30/31 January Thomas and William Garnett, Adamson and the Bensons were in Worksop and Sheffield, though nothing was decided. On 11 February came the news of the choice of Penistone '... a town about 13 miles from Sheffield, it is intersected both by the L & Y and MS & Lincolnshire Ry'. The deed of partnership was signed on 5 March and the deed of conveyance for the land on 1 April. Arrangements with Henry Bessemer were completed on 12 May, though no details are given.

James visited the works on 8 December and described them as '... on an extensive scale, well-built and arranged ... and if they are only kept at full work producing Bessemer metal, I have no doubt we shall have a good result'. Some of the engines were started up on 9 March 1863 and by early June trials of steel-making had started. Results were not encouraging. On 13 June Garnett wrote: 'There are very unsatisfactory accounts from Penistone owing to the repeated failure of the converting process.' Bessemer himself went to a meeting at the works on 16 June and the report next day was that they had been blowing the metal too long. Although there was news of 'a very good blow' on 22 June, the improvement was not maintained. On 31 July when Thomas Garnett and his wife returned from Penistone, James commented: 'They don't give a flattering account of the successful manufacture of steel, little mishaps are continually taking place.' Bessemer was at Penistone again at the end of August looking into difficulties.

By October 1863 the new steel firm had 'plenty of orders' including one from the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway for 560 tons of rails (5 October). On 13 October Garnett reported that Mr Adamson had agreed to go to Penistone to manage the works and that '... they have much improved lately'. He went

to Sheffield on 11 November to see the works of Henry Bessemer & Co. and the works of John Brown, describing the latter as '... an immense place covering  $17\frac{1}{2}$  acres and employing upwards of 4,000 people'. There appear to have been difficulties among the partners in the later part of the year and on 12 January 1864 Garnett reported that it was likely that Adamson would retire from the post of manager. On 6 February there was a man at Low Moor all day '... whom we think of engaging as manager for the steel works in Penistone'. Reports of production at the works during January and February were generally satisfactory but on 15 March there is the first mention that they were thinking of selling. An offer from Chadwick, Adamson & Co. on 19 April 'was sadly disappointing' but on 3 June the works were sold to Messrs Charles Cammell & Co. of the Cyclops Steel Works, Sheffield: 'I am glad as could not have got on satisfactorily with Mr Adamson.' The works became known as The Yorkshire Steel and Iron Works and were closed and demolished in 1930.

One person affected by the sale was James's younger brother, Gustav, who had been working at Penistone. Throughout the second half of 1864 and the whole of 1865 there were references to a number of concerns inspected by Thomas or William Garnett with Gustav with the intention of finding him a suitable opening. They included the engineering works of Clayton & Goodfellow in Blackburn (Atlas Iron Works, Goodshaw Park Road), an iron works in Lincolnshire (not named), a mill at Oakenshaw in Clayton-le-Moors, a mill near Macclesfield and a mill at Preston: none of these came to anything.

In 1865 the family were involved in a lead-mining venture at Whitewell in the Forest of Bowland. The first reference was on 14 November when James paid a deposit on 60 shares in the 'Whitewell level'. The following day he went to look at the mine and on 17 November went to a meeting of the proprietors of the Whitewell Lead Mining Company in which he by then held 80 shares. As with all mining ventures prospects fluctuated. On 29 November James heard that '... the lode in the Lead Mine continues good and that shares are worth £25'. His father had paid £15 a share for 50 shares two days before. On 5 December the mine was '... not looking quite so well' but three days later it was '... looking well again'. By the end of the year shares were worth £20. Operations certainly continued during 1866 and for a few years afterwards.

James Garnett was active in one of the railway schemes of the period which was never carried out. This was the Ribblesdale Railway intended to run from the Lancashire & Yorkshire

Railway's line at Chatburn (opened from Blackburn to Chatburn 1850) to join the North Western Railway's line from Skipton to Lancaster at Settle. This was the 'little' North Western, created in 1848, and absorbed by the Midland Railway in 1871. James received a prospectus on 7 November 1863 and on 2 March 1864 attended a meeting of provisional directors at which it was decided to accept the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway's offer to work the line for 1s. per mile for goods and passengers, 10d. per mile for minerals. The last reference was on 30 August 1865 when Garnett attended a meeting of the company in Blackburn and reported that '. . . affairs are not in a very satisfactory condition the contractors, Messrs Watsons, are trying to drive too hard a bargain in asking the same price for making an alternative route which is four miles shorter'. The link from Chatburn to the Midland line at Hellifield had to wait until 1880.

In May 1865 James Garnett went to London on behalf of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Co. to give evidence against the projected West Riding Railway from Clitheroe to Elslack. He left Clitheroe by the 8.20 a.m. train on Thursday 4 May arriving 'punctually at 5.15 by the L & NW Ry'. The Saturday he spent at the '. . . Zoological Gardens with which I was very much pleased, the collection of animals and birds is very good indeed and they appear so healthy and strong'. He appeared before the House of Commons committee on the railway bill on Tuesday 9 May, when the chairman decided that the preamble had not been proved. The following morning he left London by the 9 a.m. train for Manchester where he arrived soon after 2 p.m., in time to catch the 2.30 to Clitheroe. 'The children were very pleased with the toys I brought them . . . I am glad to get home as I was thoroughly tired of London life.'

#### PERSONAL AND FAMILY LIFE

During the period covered by this paper James Garnett became a public figure of some importance, as he was mayor of Clitheroe for two years from November 1863 to November 1865. There had been an attempt to have him elected as a councillor in 1861 when he wrote to say that '. . . under no circumstances whatever would [he] act unless compelled', and at the election meeting persuaded them instead to elect Thomas Whittaker, the Clitheroe ironfounder, who did quite a lot of building work at Low Moor Mill.

When he was nominated councillor again on 23 October 1863 it must have been with a view to his becoming mayor, and election

to that office duly followed at a meeting at the town hall on 9 November with an official dinner at the Brownlow Arms in the evening with 160 present. He was re-elected a year later and retired from office on 9 November 1865, being elected an alderman. There are a number of references to council meetings and council business. On 14 January 1864 there was '... an important Council meeting at which it was decided to proceed with the sewerage of the town according to the plans submitted by Mr Brierley. We also agreed that a loyal address should be presented to the Prince and Princess of Wales on the birth of a Prince.' Two days later the council were discussing an indictment against them for not repairing the road via Upbrooks to Worston. James Garnett, the town clerk and another councillor were appointed a committee to look into the matter and went over the whole road in the afternoon '... and found it almost impassable'. A council meeting on 19 January 1865 decided to make the street in front of Eshton Terrace, Clitheroe a public highway, '... a proceeding I rather doubt the expediency of until we know whether the railway company will throw open the level crossing'. There is in fact a level crossing at that point at the present time. At the end of 1865 the corporation were considering the purchase of the local gas and water works, which had been privately promoted.

There are many accounts of public functions attended by Garnett in his capacity as mayor. On the evening of 18 June 1864 he presided at a temperance meeting in Clitheroe: 'There had been a demonstration to-day of teetotallers, bands and processions, the cause is making great progress as there are nearly 1500 persons in the town who are pledged. Mr Duxbury from the Temperance League was present. He is staying with us until Monday.' Twelve days earlier the council had accepted the gift of a drinking fountain to be erected by the teetotallers of Clitheroe in the Market Place. On 24 June Garnett attended the 310th commemoration day at Clitheroe Grammar School: '... the sermon was preached by the Rev. H. A. Starkie, after which the prizes were distributed. I gave one for drawing and one for writing. I dined with the governors at the Swan.' He gave evidence to the Taunton commission on public and grammar schools on 4 October 1865: 'Mr Bryce, a gentleman sent down by the government to enquire into the state of the Grammar Schools called upon me this evening and asked many questions about the Clitheroe School.' On 23 February 1865 he was in the chair at a soirée of the Clitheroe Mechanic's Institute: '... Sir J. P. Kay-Shuttleworth and Mr Ingham of Moreton were there and each delivered a most beautiful

speech. . . . After the meeting there was a ball. I opened the dancing with Mrs R. Dewhurst [wife of one of the leading cotton manufacturers in the town]. He was vice-president of the Clitheroe Agricultural Society in 1865, Mr Assheton of Downham being president, and was at the show on Friday 11 August: ' . . . the entries were good and the attendance on the field large considering the weather. The dinner has been at the Rose and Crown.' During Garnett's period of office the council chamber was refurnished. He went with three councillors on 14 October 1864 to select chairs and a chandelier. The new furniture was received on 8 November and the council chamber was open for the first time after renovation the following day, when Garnett was re-elected mayor.

Both James and his brother William were magistrates and there are occasional references to this side of the diarist's public work. There was a case of night poaching on 10 January 1863: 'A man had shot 2 pheasants early this morning near Whitewell and was captured. He is sent to prison for two months with hard labour.' On 21 November 1865 two little boys, aged nine and seven, were brought before them for stealing: 'The elder was committed to Preston and is from there to be sent to a Reformatory. The poor child sobbed bitterly but he set fire to a haystack only a short time ago.'

At a personal level there are occasional hints about James Garnett's reading. He was a regular subscriber to *The Times*, the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Preston Guardian* and received the first issue of the *Illustrated News* on 12 January 1861. In February 1863 he was reading *The Times*'s correspondent's (William Howard Russell's) newly-published account of his experiences in America, *My Diary North and South*. On 1 December the same year he was ' . . . pleased by reading Tennyson's *Enoch Arden*. It is cleverly written.'

Birthdays are regularly noted. His own 37th birthday on 24 April 1865 was unfortunately celebrated with a dental operation carried out at Waddow Hall by the family doctor: 'Mr Musson came down to Waddow this morning and took out a tooth for me. I had chloroform. Though it was a very difficult one to extract, I did not feel any pain when it was wrenched out.' His father's and mother's birthdays were usually celebrated by a family party. On his father's 66th birthday on 18 January 1865 there were 140 present at Low Moor House and ' . . . dancing was kept up until one o'clock'.

James's own family figures from time to time. At the beginning of 1861 he and his wife, Emma, had two children, Tom born on 22 August 1857 and often referred to as 'Birdie', and

Mary, always referred to as Cissy, born on 27 March 1859. Two more sons were born during the period of this paper: Jerry on 26 February 1862—'Emma has just got a little boy, which we have named Jerry. Both are doing well'—and Newstead born on 18 April and christened at Grindleton Church on 11 September 1865. There was also a girl stillborn on 18 February 1864. There are occasional comments on the children's progress. On 1 March 1862 Tom was '... very much pleased ... he has begun wearing knickerbockers which suit him very well'. Little Jerry, then just over eleven months old, began to walk on 6 February 1863. In 1864 and 1865 there were references to the education of the two older children. On 2 January 1864 Emma wrote to three candidates for the post of nursery governess and on 22 January the person appointed, Miss Brown, arrived at Waddow: '... we are pleased with her appearance'. Five days later James reported that 'Birdie and Cissy appear to be settling well down to Miss Brown's plans. I think there will be not much trouble with them.' On 26 February Cissy, still not quite five years old, began to 'read in the New Testament' and the same day their father noted that 'Birdie can write very tolerably'. In December arrangements were made with Mr Leo Whalley, organist of St Mary's, Clitheroe, and professor of music and pianoforte tuner of Castle Foot, to teach the two older children music: '... his terms are 1½ guineas per quarter for ten lessons each per week of ½ an hour each'. Both Tom and Cissy got a shilling reward from their father on 21 March 1865 when they '... finished their copy books'. He also examined them from time to time. On 22 June 1865 he wrote: 'The children have broke up school today. I examined them in Grammar, Geography and History and was pleased with their answers.' The next day Miss Brown left for the holidays. Again on 22 December 1865 when Miss Brown went home for Christmas, Garnett noted that '... the children passed their examinations satisfactorily yesterday. The questions were on Grammar, Geography, History, Astronomy, French.' Tom was then 8, Cissy 6.

Less serious matters also had their place. On 1 April 1864 James took Birdie and Cissy to see Mr Mander's Collection of Lions, Tigers, Leopards and Elephants which was then in Clitheroe. The previous day he wrote that they had not seen any wild animals before and '... will I fancy be surprised at the size of the elephants. He himself was very much impressed by the performing tigers. On Christmas eve the same year they had a Christmas tree '... which greatly pleased them' and on 28 December went to a children's party at the Castle. In February 1865 their father bought them a donkey for £1 7s. 6d.

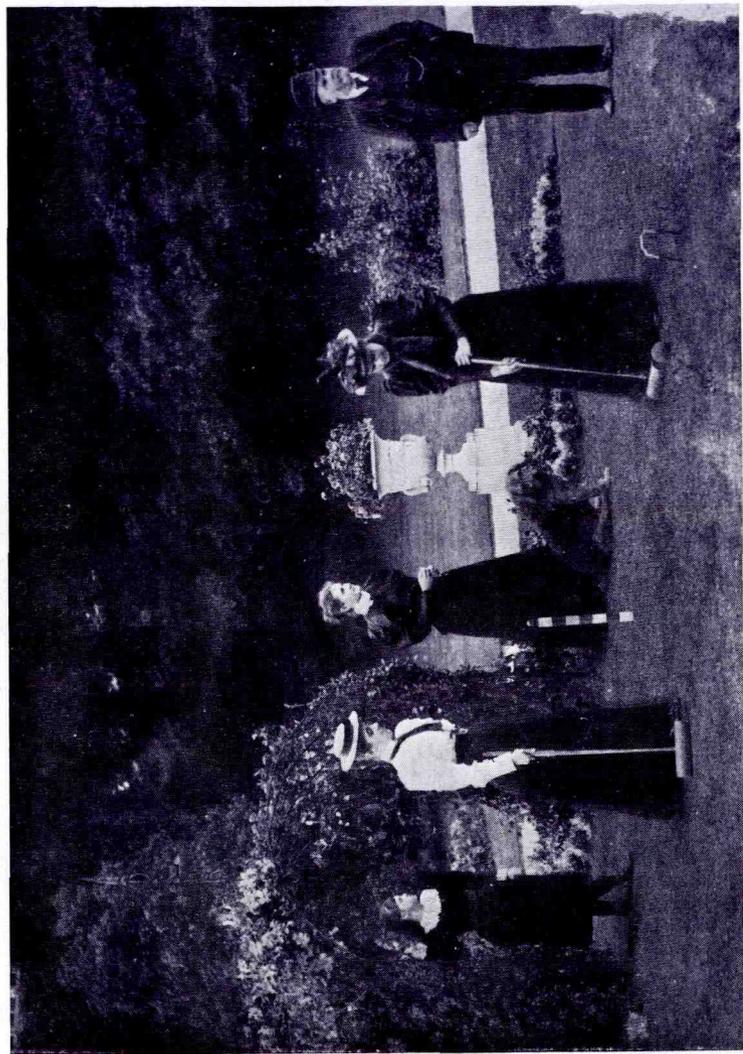


Figure 4

JAMES GARNETT AND DAUGHTERS, WADDOW HALL

Left to right Sue, Alice, Emma

James's three brothers were all married during this period. His elder brother, William, was married on 31 December 1861 to Elizabeth, daughter of John Thomasson of High Bank, Bolton, Lancs. He had introduced his future wife to the family on the previous 5 August and on 7 December took possession of Bashall Lodge in Bashall Eaves about two miles from Low Moor where he and his wife were to live. James received letters from the newly-married couple on their honeymoon, on 2 January from Hereford, on 4 January from Exeter and on 6 January from Torquay. They were expected back on the 14th but did not arrive as Elizabeth (Lizzie) was indisposed and could not leave High Bank. Quite a welcome had been prepared: 'The Volunteers had all assembled at the station and a great number of our workpeople to give them a welcome and we were all at Bashall Lodge.' They came four days later and there followed a series of celebrations. On 28 January William gave a party '... to all the Sunday School scholars and teachers who lived at the place. All denominations have been for once invited and thoroughly all seem to have enjoyed themselves.' The next day there was a tea party for '... the old women of 60' who '... thoroughly enjoyed themselves and kept it up with unflagging energy'. The series of entertainments closed on 31 January with a supper to about fifty of the firm's overlookers at which about seventy pounds of meat were cooked. James's younger brother, Gustav, was married on 13 August 1863 to Alice Dickinson of Blackburn at St Peter's Church, Blackburn, and went on his honeymoon to Windermere and Scotland. The wedding celebrations were held in Whalley after the service: '... a little after 3 o'clock a special train carried a party of about 80 to Whalley where many went on the Nab, others visited the Church and Abbey. A beautiful tea was provided at the Whalley Arms.' Jeremiah, the other brother, was married to Elizabeth Knowles, daughter of James Knowles, Esq., of Eagle Bank, Bolton, on 29 June 1864, James Garnett's eldest son, 'Birdie', being a groomsman. Jeremiah went to Switzerland on his honeymoon, writing to James from Lucerne on 9 July. He afterwards lived at the Grange, Bromley Cross, Bolton. Tom and Susannah Garnett, Jeremiah's father and mother, gave parties to the workmen and to the old people in honour of both marriages.

There is a small amount of information about James's house, Waddow Hall. In March 1861 they were planting spruce firs and putting down new grass in front of the hall. Some new furniture was purchased in January 1864. James was in Manchester selecting it on the 15th and '... decided to get it from Kendal, Milne & Faulkners'. At the same time he was putting in new

fireplaces and mantelpieces and painting and papering. The coach house and stables were repaired in January 1865 and on 20 May Garnett bought a wagonette from Blackburn. On 5 June a party of Sunday school teachers and scholars were entertained at the Hall—'I provided coffee and buns'.

Family holidays were spent in Southport and Lytham. In November 1862 James and Emma went to Southport on their own to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary. 'Instead of taking a tour in London we are come to Southport. We are at the Victoria Hotel. The little we have seen of the town we like.' The terms were 5s. per day for a private sitting-room and 8s. 9d. per day each for bed, board and attendance. One day was spent in Liverpool where James bought 272 bales of cotton. They also spent a considerable time looking at the shops and thought everything dear. Emma and the children stayed in Southport again for a fortnight from 21 May to 4 June 1864, James travelling to and from Clitheroe at the week ends. They stayed at Mrs Dimonds, 50 Bath Street, and paid per week 10s. 6d. each for beds, 12s. for a sitting-room and 5s. for attendance. The day after they arrived Emma and the children went to Churchtown while James had a Turkish bath which he greatly enjoyed. The weather was good and the children came home '. . . very much sunburnt'. Lytham was preferred in 1863 and 1865. Emma and the children stayed in July 1863 at Miss Cookson's, where they paid £3 per week for a sitting-room and three bedrooms. They went 'with the servants'. In September 1865, when Newstead was still only a few months old, the other children went to Lytham with their governess, Miss Brown, and with James's sister, Martha. They had 'good lodgings in the Beach' and James sent them a hamper on 14 September.

Sporting interests are prominent. James's own preference for fishing is marked by a large number of entries every year, recording catches of salmon, trout and other fish. He fished regularly in the Hodder, usually near Whitewell, often caught salmon in the Ribble near the mill, and occasionally went over to Otley where he fished in the river Washburn. In the season he commonly fished on Mondays and Fridays, occasionally on other days as well. On Monday 1 August 1864 he had '. . . the best day's fishing I have ever had in my life. I killed 27 sea fish and 3 trout and I hooked and fought considerably more than I got.' This was at Whitewell. There is an interesting reference to fish breeding on 6 March 1862: 'My father has been successful in hatching some hybrid fish a cross between salmon and trout' and some of the new breed were put into the river on 14 April. Thomas Garnett is noted in the *Dictionary of National*

*Biography* as one of the first to undertake artificial propagating of fish. The local rivers were becoming affected by pollution. On 24 November 1864 James attended a magistrates' meeting to consider the case of '... The Fishery Association against Bleakley & Mitchell, paper makers [Primrose Mill, Clitheroe]. The action was for polluting the stream [Pendleton Brook] with chloride of lime to such an extent as to poison the fish. The defendants were fined 1s 0d with costs.' In July 1865 the culprits were the Barrow Print Works of H. & G. Ainsworth between Clitheroe and Whalley and on the 28th of the month Garnett wrote: 'The destruction of fish still continues. Birch says it gets worse, we found a few in Bashall Brook this afternoon.'

Other members of the family, especially James's father, Tom, and his brother, William, were keen on shooting, though James himself also went from time to time. He may not have been as skilful as the others: on 6 September 1864, when he went shooting with Mr Hodgson of Clerk Hill, Whalley, he wrote that '... there were plenty of partridge but we shot very badly'. The Diary contains references to the opening of grouse shooting on 12 August every year. In 1861 William was at Bowes in Northumberland, Thomas on Waddington Fells. Thomas was on Waddington Fells again in 1862 and in 1863 James himself went to shoot on the moor above Whitewell, but '... did not have very good sport. We only got 2½ brace.' In 1864 Thomas, William and Gustav went to Rothbury in Northumberland where they had rented some grouse shooting and in 1865 they took 8,000 acres on Bowes Moor, near Brough in Westmorland. James noted that William was there in mid-September when he killed 50 brace of grouse in three or four days. Details of bags are often given: on 13 November 1862 Thomas was shooting at Whitewell and '... they ... killed 136 pheasants, 25 hare and a fox. My father shot 35 pheasants, by far the best day's shooting he has ever had'.

#### LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Anyone wishing to study meteorological history would find plenty of evidence in the Diary since the state of the weather is recorded nearly every day. One example must suffice. In the winter of 1865 the river Ribble was frozen over for a considerable period. James Garnett first noted the fact on Saturday, 21 January, and a week later he mentioned that '... skaters have been on the river today'. The river was still frozen over on 10 February and there was skating opposite Waddow on the 20th. Even on 22 March there is an entry '... river frozen over'.

Local events were also recorded. In 1865 there was an outbreak of cattle plague which affected the Clitheroe area. On 4 September the Board of Guardians passed a resolution asking Garnett, as mayor, to call a meeting to consider the situation. The meeting was held on 11 September and was attended by a number of prominent local landowners including Mr Peel of Knowlmer, Mr Assheton of Downham, Captain Starkie of Huntroyde, Captain Parker of Browsholme: 'An Association was formed as well as a Committee of which I as Mayor was appointed chairman.' The idea of an Association for Mutual Protection did not in the end materialise as '... the farmers were lukewarm in the matter' (25 September). By 27 September the plague was affecting sheep and on 4 October there was an outbreak near Browsholme where seven cattle had died or been killed. The disease continued to increase during October and November and on 11 December was '... dreadful about Gisburn. A farmer named Heaton has lost 26, 14 of that number died in one day.' On 28 December the plague was still very bad in Yorkshire '... especially no remedy yet discovered for the successful treatment of it'.

Cricket matches between an All-England eleven and a Whalley twenty-two were described in 1864 and 1865. On 8 September 1864 Garnett noted that the All-England eleven had scored 62 in their first innings. The next day he went in to see the play at Whalley but commented: '... I can't say I am very much interested in the game'. He did not record the result. In 1865 the All-England side won by 66 runs, Whalley scoring only 33 in their first innings.

There is a full account of the parliamentary election at Clitheroe during the general election of 1865, which clearly demonstrated James Garnett's liberal sympathies. The sitting member, Richard Fort, looked like being opposed by Lord S. Kerr, a son-in-law of the duke of Buccleugh, lord of the honour of Clitheroe. When the possibility of a contested election was first mentioned on 1 July Garnett wrote: 'I trust if the Conservatives are foolish enough to disturb the town they will get thoroughly defeated.' Lord Kerr appeared in Clitheroe four days later and on 6 July Garnett reported: 'Electioneering has commenced at Clitheroe in good earnest. Canvassers are busy ... and this evening there has been a meeting of Mr Fort's supporters. Lord Kerr is supported by Messrs Assheton, Starkie, Aspinall [of Standen Hall] Park and Robinson [presumably Dixon Robinson, a solicitor, clerk to the county magistrates and steward of the honour of Clitheroe] and Mr Fort by the town of Clitheroe. We shall have an exciting contest.' The next day he

received the election writ for the borough and went in procession with other members of the council to proclaim the election at the town hall, in the Market Place and at the Post Office. Electioneering was still going on 8 July with '... both sides as usual sanguine of success' and '... a few squibs out, but nothing very racy'. Two days later Lord Kerr withdrew: 'I am glad we are not to have a contested election after all.' The election formally took place on Tuesday, 11 July, the hustings having been erected by Satterthwaite, a local joiner, the day before. (It should be remembered that this was before the ballot act which made voting secret.) 'The procession from the Town Hall consisting of myself, the Town Clerk, members of the Corporation left at 11 o'clock for the hustings and there met Mr Fort's friends. After I had gone through the usual routine of reading the writ and taking the oath I asked an elector to nominate a candidate. William [James's brother] proposed and Mr Edward Hodgson seconded Mr Fort and, there being no other candidate, Mr Fort was declared duly elected M.P. for Clitheroe.' Subsequent entries followed the election news from elsewhere. The return of two conservatives in Blackburn (Mr W. H. Hornby, a local cotton manufacturer who was member from 1857 to 1867, and Mr Joseph Feilden, who was returned for the first time on this occasion) caused Garnett some concern: 'Mr Pilkington has lost the seat he has held for 18 years and this entirely through the intervention of Gerald Potter [of Mitton Hall] who divided the Liberal interest.' Many people in both parties would have been content to re-elect Hornby and Pilkington, but a section of the liberal party opposed this and nominated Potter, as a result of which the conservatives nominated Feilden as well as Hornby. 'Great dissatisfaction will be the result', wrote Garnett, 'and perhaps a good deal of ill feeling.' James Pilkington, a prominent free trader, and his brother William, had the Park Place Mills in Blackburn. The news of Mr Gladstone's defeat by 180 votes at Oxford University was noted on 19 July, but the following day he was returned as one of the members for South Lancashire. Gladstone had been chancellor of the exchequer in Palmerston's government and Garnett noticed the lowering of the rate of income tax from 6d. to 4d. in the pound on 1 May 1865.

In references to national events royalty figured prominently and favourably. On 14 December 1861 *The Times* reported that '... Prince Albert is seriously ill from gastric fever. A telegram was sent for the Prince of Wales from Cambridge.' The entry recording his death on Monday, 16 December, was outlined in black: 'We were all very much shocked this morning to hear of

the death of the Prince Consort which event took place a few minutes before eleven o'clock on Saturday evening from typhoid fever. The Queen has lost a beloved husband, her children an affectionate father and the country a very active patron and promoter of the fine arts and agriculture. Scarcely any other man could have occupied the same position and filled it so worthily and the nation will for years regret the loss which it has sustained.' The funeral took place a week later: 'His remains are deposited in St George's Chapel, Windsor, where they will remain until a new mausoleum is built near that containing the body of the Duchess of Kent. Business has been almost entirely suspended in Clitheroe. A sermon was preached for the occasion by Mr Anderton, the Mayor and Corporation went to church in state as well as the Volunteers'.

Plenty of attention was given to the marriage of the Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra in 1863. The arrangements were first mentioned on 5 February and on 6 March James Garnett reported that 'The Princess Alexandra arrived at the Nore last night. Windows and rooms in London along the route were let for the day at fabulous prices, in some instances for £200.' The next day, a Saturday, Edward and she drove through London in state:

*The Times* says there never was such a day in London, everybody striving who could do most to give our future Queen a hearty English welcome. Every town and village are making preparations to have Tuesday a thorough day of rejoicing, balls, dinners, games, bonfires and fireworks will show the spirit of the English people towards this young princess. She has everybody's good wish and today many a fervent prayer has been offered up for her future happiness. I hope and trust she may long live to enjoy the same good feeling which is now shown towards her and that her after life may be as unclouded as her past has been. May God bless both her and the Prince of Wales. May he follow the bright example of both his father and mother and may both of them after wearing an earthly crown obtain a heavenly one.

The wedding day, Tuesday 10 March, was a general holiday and in Clitheroe there was '... a procession, a dinner provided by the Mayor and this evening a ball. The old keep at the Castle is illuminated, there are beacon fires on all the surrounding hills which remind us of olden times when these fires were the watchword for other and less joyous occasions.'

James Garnett's admiration for Gladstone was twice revealed: on 24 April 1862 when he was in Manchester '... and made a beautiful speech' and on 8 October 1863 when he went to Bolton and Liverpool '... delighting audiences by his wonderful speeches'. On 3 April 1865 the death of Richard Cobden was noted in the Diary: '... his strenuous and successful battle for Free Trade and the Repeal of the Corn Laws will be handed down in the history of our country.'

There were three references to public executions in 1863, two at the County Gaol, at Kirkdale, Liverpool, one in London. On 25 April the Ribchester murderers were hanged at Kirkdale and James Garnett saw them as he returned from Liverpool by the 12.30 train. On 2 September he wrote: 'A most horrible spectacle will have been witnessed at Kirkdale today, the execution of four men at one time. No doubt thousands will have travelled a long way to see the sight.' In similar vein he mentioned an execution at Newgate, London, on 14 November '. . . in the presence of 100,000 spectators'. Writing about Kirkdale executions in 1875, J. A. Picton in his *Memorials of Liverpool* (Volume 2, pp. 409-10) wrote that 'The commanding situation of the gaol overlooking a large extent of open ground on the west side, usually attracted on these occasion a large number of spectators of the lowest class and scenes of ruffianism and disorder frequently took place which the new mode of executing in a more private way has tended to prevent.' Public executions were abolished in 1868 following a Royal Commission on Capital Punishment.

Foreign and international news was also noted, presumably taken from the newspapers and usually written down without much comment. Garnett was very concerned about the Schleswig-Holstein dispute in 1864 particularly because of the fear that England might be drawn in and of the effect on trade. On 22 June he wrote: 'People seem to think we shall drift into war. Prussia seems determined to listen to no-one, but run the risk of driving us to take active steps against her.' His own feelings may be revealed the following day when he reported that 'A great many would like to see Prussia severely handled by France.' He was, however, relieved on 28 June when he noted that 'We were all very much pleased to find . . . that our government have determined not to go to war at present on account of Denmark and to show the state of public opinion in the matter.' A topical note for today is struck on 16 August 1865 when he mentioned rioting in Belfast between Orangemen and Catholics.

Outside the sphere of politics, an eruption of Vesuvius was recorded on 12 December 1861: 'There is a terrible eruption now going on from Mount Vesuvius. Whole towns are likely to be destroyed. Slight shudders of earthquakes are felt, the ground has opened into gulfs and the sea in the Bay of Naples has receded considerably.'

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## NOTES

- 1 Part I of the Diary, '... Years of prosperity, 1858-60', appeared in *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* (hereafter *THSLC*), CXXI (1969), pp. 77-98.
- 2 See R. Sharpe France (ed.), 'The Diary of John Ward of Clitheroe, weaver, 1860-4', *THSLC*, CV (1953), pp. 137-85. Individual page references to this paper are not given below as they can be traced by the date of entry.
- 3 On overproduction at this time see W. O. Henderson, *The Lancashire cotton famine 1861-5* (1934), pp. 11-12.
- 4 *Ibid.* pp. 17-18.
- 5 See Owen Ashmore, 'Low Moor, Clitheroe, a nineteenth-century factory community', *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, LXXIII-IV (1966), pp. 130-5.
- 6 See L. H. Grindon, *Manchester banks and bankers* (1878), pp. 307-9.
- 7 See Ernest F. Lang, 'The Old Lancashire Steel Company', *Memoirs and Proceedings of the Manchester Literary & Philosophical Society*, LXXXII (1938), pp. 79-93. The company ceased to operate in 1871 when the works, including two Bessemer converters, a plate mill, a rail mill, and a forging shop were acquired by Bucklow, Vaughan & Co. of Middlesbrough. By 1885 the buildings were part of the works of Beyer, Peacock & Co