

December 29 1892

A GLOUCESTER SENSATION Between five and nine o'clock on Monday night the south end of Gloucester was the scene of disorderly and exciting demonstrations. It is alleged that the wife of a boatman had left her husband and seven children and eloped with another boatman. The parties went up the river together on a longboat, and returned to Gloucester on Monday evening.

The boat arrived at the quay about five o'clock, and here a crowd of people gathered and gave the couple an extraordinary reception. Their effigies were strung up to the crane on the quay, and after a quantity of paraffin had been poured on them, were set fire to. The boat was then brought to the locks, the crowd following. Calls were made to the man to turn the woman out, but he stoutly denied that she was on board. A section of the crowd, however, thought otherwise, boarded the boat and commenced a search. Their efforts in this respect were rewarded, the woman being found coiled up in the cabin. On making her appearance on deck, she was "dowsed" with water, her clothes becoming saturated. By some means the man got his boat on the opposite side of the basin, and a cab from Mr Colwell's mews having been procured for them, and which waited near the Llanthony Bridge, the couple immediately jumped into the vehicle, and were driven towards Southgate Street. When the vehicle with its occupants had reached Southgate Street it was met by a number of men and women, who refused to allow it to proceed further. An attempt, in which the windows of the cab were broken, was made to hustle the occupants out, and the cabman, seeing that it was useless to hope to get any "farrarder", took his horse out of the shafts, and left the fly in the centre of the raging mob who made the night hideous by their yells and execrations. A couple of policemen in the meantime appeared on the scene, and they bravely held their ground against the excited demonstrators while they sought to protect the objects of the popular rage from ill usage.

From the article below, it appears that "burning in effigy" was a not uncommon way for others to make their feelings clear about adultery. The article below is from the Huddersfield Chronicle, dated July 8th 1865.

A RUNAWAY HUSBAND BURNT IN EFFIGY.—Henry Iredale, a pensioner, was charged with neglecting to support his wife. Mr. Learoyd defended. It appeared that the complainant, who is in a delicate state of health, applied to Mr. Sykes, relieving officer, for relief on Monday; and he had learned that she had no home. The defendant was now cohabiting with a woman at Marsh; and the couple had been burnt in effigy by the inhabitants of that place.—George Iredale, brother of the defendant, was called as a witness by Mr. Sykes. Iredale stated that his brother had been married to the woman, on whose behalf the complaint had been made, 14 years. After their marriage, they went to Ireland, whence the defendant proceeded to the Crimea as a soldier, and his wife returned to her parents. About five weeks ago she came from Wiltshire in search of him. She found him, but he would not receive her; and the neighbours brought her to his (witness's) house at Rashcliffe, where she had since been staying. Cross-examined: Defendant told him he had offered her money to see her home. Was not aware that he had illtreated her. Defendant had been in the army 23 years; and was in receipt of a pension.—Mr. Learoyd, who submitted that there was no case, said he should be able to prove the woman left the defendant of her own accord.—Mr. Laycock: If the Marsh people have burnt the man in effigy, will no one come to give evidence?—The Chairman said the case would be adjourned for a week, as they could not decide upon hearsay evidence.—The case was accordingly adjourned for a week.