

BRADFORD OBSERVER

1 February 22 1838

Bradford Court House

WEDNESDAY **William Yeadon**, boatman, convicted of drunkenness on Monday last; fined 5s, expenses 7s.

2 April 19 1838

Bradford Court House

A RATHER DEAR SHOT **George Long**, a boatman, was brought up, charged with having shot a hare from the vessel on which he was aboard of, on the ground of W R C Stansfield Esq of Esholt. He was convicted in the penalty of £2 and costs 12s.

3 May 31 1838

Bradford Court House

WEDNESDAY **Jos Daker** of Bradford, boatman, was charged with drunkenness and with indecently exposing his person in the street. In consequence of a good character, and it being his first offence, he was discharged on paying costs.

4 September 6 1838

Bradford Court House

BOATMEN BEWARE **Robert Everett**, a boatman, was charged by the Canal Company with passing a bridge leading across the canal to an occupation road and leaving it turned off. The charge was fully proved against him. In his defence, Everett said the bridge in question was turned off at the time he came up to it, and that he left it as he had found it. The Bench told him that was no excuse; unless a bridge was turned off *and locked* it was the duty of all boatmen to turn on the bridge as soon as they had passed, whether they found it on or off on coming up to it. It was hoped this would serve as a warning for the future. Reference being made to the law, it was found that the penalty for such an offence was five pounds; in the present instance they would inflict the mitigated penalty of 10s and costs 12s.

ANOTHER BOATMAN **Rhodes Yates** was charged with shooting some pigeons, the property of Mr John Webster, which were feeding on the side of the canal. This charge was also proved by the same individual as the former one, and he was convicted in the penalty of 10s and costs 12s.

5 February 7 1839

INQUESTS On Monday at the Rose and Crown, Golcar, on the body of **John Balmforth**, boatman, of Slaithwaite, aged 51, who was found drowned in the Huddersfield and Manchester Canal, near lock No 20, but how he came drowned no evidence appeared. Verdict *Found drowned*.

6 May 2 1839

Bradford Court House

ROBBERY IN A BOAT Frederick Abbott, formerly of Keighley, labourer, was charged by **Robert Daker**, boatman, with robbing him of five sovereigns. It appeared that on Friday the 12th instant, Daker employed the defendant, who was in a state of destitution, as an assistant for his boat. On the Tuesday night following, Daker, having got intoxicated, was conveyed on board by the defendant and a boy who was also employed on board. He was left in the cabin, his jacket with the money in the pocket being put under his head. On Wednesday morning, Daker found that his pocket had been relieved of four sovereigns. Not being able to make out in what way his money had gone, he changed a £5 note for cash to go on with. On Wednesday night he again got fuddled, and during the night was robbed of another sovereign. Up to Monday morning last he had not been able to make anything out with regard to his money. He was then at Shipley, and in a public house where he learned that Abbott had been changing a sovereign for some eatables. He charged him with the robbery, and in consequence of some promise held out by Daker, Abbott confessed the robbery, and gave up what money he had left. Not being able to make up the whole sum, Daker sent for a constable and gave him in charge. These facts having been stated before the magistrates, and Daker having also declared that he had no proof against Abbott except his own confession, the case was dismissed.

7 July 4 1839

WEST RIDING MIDSUMMER SESSIONS **Wm Doleman** (32) and **Thomas Southall** (35) were charged with stealing a quantity of port wine, on board a vessel belonging to Messrs Kenworthy and Co on the 27th of May last. Mr Wasney for the prosecution. The prisoners were boatmen employed by Messrs Kenworthy and Co, and they received a pipe of wine on board their vessel at London, consigned to Mr Armitage, the magistrate, who was examined on the Bench. The case was fully made out against both prisoners, who were sentenced to nine months imprisonment with hard labour.

8 July 11 1839

CAUTION TO BOATMEN On Tuesday last two men, named **Robinson** and **Brown**, in the employ of Messrs Tyne and Glover (late Tyne and Rigby) were brought before Edward Greenwood Esq at Bingley, charged with stealing 63lbs of Fleece Wool out of twelve sheets, whilst conveying them from Leeds to the canal warehouse at Silsden. The wool was the property of Mr Wright of Silsden and he, being in immediate want of it, had it landed and conveyed direct to his own warehouse, where it was weighed, and the deficiency discovered before the parties had left the premises. A constable was soon on the spot, and on the boat being searched, nine fleeces were found in a sack, concealed in the captain's berth. After a full examination of the evidence the parties were fully committed to York for trial at the present assizes.

9 July 30 1840

THEFT BY BOATMEN – A NOVEL SAVINGS BANK On Saturday morning last, one of the borough police observed a boatman carrying a basket in the street; and his suspicion being excited, the officer watched the man take it to a house, whither he immediately followed him, and demanded to examine the contents of the basket. It was quite full of hanks of yarn, which the man, whose name is **White**, said he had brought out of Yorkshire to Manchester to be dyed. As he stated he had no more yarn, the policeman searched the room; and behind the head of the bed, in which another man named Rolls, the occupant of the tenement was lying, he found six banks of similar yarn. The policeman accordingly conveyed both men to the police office, and Inspector Green then asked White if he was working in any boat. White said he was employed in the service of the Merchants' Company, in a boat called the *Gipsy*, which was lying in the canal basin. Green went to the boat, and found that part of its cargo had been a number of bales of yarn, of a precisely similar quality and description to that found in the possession of the prisoners. Ten of the bales had evidently been cut open at one end or corner of the bale, and sewed up again with some twine of a darker colour or a more dirty hue than the rest; and from that part of the bales, a bundle or two of yarn had to all appearance been abstracted. On searching further, Green found some of the dirty twine and a packing needle in the captain's cupboard. He took a sample from several of the bales, and it apparently corresponded in every respect with the yarn found on the prisoners. He next searched the boat narrowly, and found somewhere in the cabin a small bag containing 15 sovereigns and some silver; and in the bottom part of the boat, amongst some lumber, potatoes &c was a short piece of spar, or what is called a batten end, which attracted Green's attention. He found it so heavy that he was led to scrutinise it rather closely. It was in two pieces (as if it had been split longitudinally), neatly joined together; but having separated them, Green found a large hollow scooped in the middle, nicely lined with raw cotton; and in the midst of the cotton snugly lay no fewer than sixty eight sovereigns! These were so neatly packed in this nautical savings bank that no clinking betrayed the secret of the internal value of this bit of wood, which was just the sort of thing a lad would have been tempted to lay hands on to make a miniature boat. Before Green left the wharf with his prize, he saw every bale weighed. The prisoners were brought up at the Borough Court on Monday morning, when these facts were stated, and the yarn and the boatman's cash box were produced. The latter excited much curiosity, as its golden store in a nest of cotton was exhibited to the magistrate. A gentleman in the employ of the Merchants' Company, to whom the

boat belongs, stated that the *Gipsy* had brought to this town, from Sowerby Bridge, 20 bales of yarn, consigned by Messrs Gills and Denton of Baildon, near Bradford, to Messrs Worthington and Co, carriers, to be forwarded to Kidderminster. In the transit, witness considered these goods to be the property of the Merchants' Company, to whom they were entrusted. On re-weighing the bales after the prisoners' apprehension, three of them showed a deficiency of weight as compared with that on the bill of consignment. The bales Nos 9745, 9214 and 9731 were respectively 2lb short of the weight as per consignment; and the last specified bale was wetted in getting it out of the boat and upon the wharf, so that if it had been reweighed dry, its deficiency would have been greater by 1lb. Another bale was deficient, though it appeared to have been wetted deliberately on board the boat to give it additional weight; and witness said it was no infrequent thing for boatmen, when any portion of bale goods had been abstracted, to pour water on the bales to conceal the deficiency of weight; but notwithstanding this bale was re-weighed in that state, it was deficient of the weight stated. The goods were weighed at Sowerby Bridge and immediately afterwards put into the boat. Witness stated that White had been in the employ of the Merchants' Company a number of years (some other person stated twelve years); that he and his son were both employed on board the boat, the former having earned for the last eighteen months 22s a week, and the son 15s a week, so that they were together in receipt of 37s weekly, and might have as much money of their own as was found in the boat. As there was no party to give evidence as to the state and weight of the bale when put on board at Sowerby Bridge, nor any witness conversant with yarns to speak to the perfect identity of that found on the prisoners with that contained in the bales, both the prisoners were remanded to this day, and the police retain present possession of the 81 sovereigns and silver.

Manchester Guardian

10 August 27 1840

Bradford Court House

DISGUSTING CASE James Best of Low Moor, blastman, **Thomas Wrench** of this town, boatman, and Thomas Fox of this town, woolcomber, were placed at the bar, charged by John Rawnsley, a simple fellow residing in John Street, Stott Hill, with assault and disorderly conduct. It appeared that at one o'clock on Sunday morning the wife of the complainant went home, the worse for drink, in company with the three prisoners. The husband, Best and Fox retired to sleep in the chamber, whilst Wrench slept in the house with the wife; the poor fellow stated that they compelled him to go upstairs, when at the same time he wanted to get them out of the house. At an early hour in the morning she left the house in company with the three, and at half past seven Rawnsley went in search of them, and found them drinking at the Ring of Bells Inn; she would not go home, or they would not suffer her to go, so he got a pint of ale and stopped till about eight o'clock, but did not then go direct home; on reaching home a short time after, he found his wife and Fox on a bed in the house; he immediately ordered him to leave the house; whilst they were wrangling Best and Wrench came in, and they insisted on him going out for some beer; he would not, and Wrench went out and returned with a shillingsworth; he joined in the drinking of this, and afterwards they compelled him to go for a sixpennyworth; on his return he found they had taken advantage of his absence and had locked him out; after much disturbance he got into the house, and Fox took up a chair and struck him behind the head; the row continued until after church time, and Rawnsley went to the church yard, found the constables and gave them in charge. They were brought up on Monday, but remanded till yesterday, when the above facts were proved in evidence, and they were each ordered to find two sureties in five pounds each, and themselves in £10 each to keep the peace for twelve months, or be committed till such sureties are found, costs 10s 6d each. The magistrate said this was certainly the most disgusting case he had ever known.

11 May 13 1841

DEATHS On the 8th inst, aged 77, in the Poor House, **John Daker**, boatman.

12 November 18 1841

Halifax

CANAL OFFENCES On Monday last, **Wm Ellis**, a boatman, was summoned before the

16 June 15 1843 Intermediate Sessions

IMPRISONED SIX MONTHS Samuel Carter (34), convicted of stealing a silver watch and a pocket knife from the person of **William Heron**, a boatman, whilst sleeping in the cabin of his vessel at Hipperholme-cum-Brighouse, on the night of the 6th of April.

17 June 29 1843

DEATHS On the 19th inst, **Mr James Illingorth**, boatman, of Dunkirk Street, aged 30.

18 September 7 1843

CHARGE OF VIOLATION Yesterday at the Court House, a middle aged man, named **Robert Daker**, was charged with having assaulted a little girl under eleven years of age, named **Beck**, with intent to violate her person. Both the prisoner and the prosecutrix's father are boatmen; the girl works short time at a mill, managing domestic affairs when she is not at work. On Tuesday afternoon the prisoner went to her father's house, which is in Well Street, and finding that both he and Mrs Beck had gone down to the canal, and that the girl was alone, he made the attempt with which he was charged, but did not effect his purpose. He was remanded to Friday, in consequence of the absence of the witnesses.

19 January 25 1844

I, THOMAS LISTER, at present, and for Twelve Months past, residing at Brookfoot, in the Parish of Halifax, and County of York, and being a **Boatman** do hereby give Notice that I intend to present a Petition to the Court of Bankruptcy for the Leeds District, praying to be examined touching my Debts, Estate, and Effects; and to be protected from all Process, upon making a full disclosure and surrender of such Estate and Effects, for Payment of my just and lawful Debts; and I hereby further give Notice, that the time when the Matter of the said Petition shall be heard is to be advertised in the *London Gazette*, and in the *Bradford Observer Newspaper*, one Month, at the least, after the date hereof.

As Witness my Hand, this Twenty-third Day of January, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Four.

THOMAS LISTER, ✍ his Mark.

Signed by the said Thomas Lister, in the presence of
JOHN R. INGRAM, Solicitor, Halifax.

20 February 15 1844

CHILD DROWNED A boy five years of age, the son of a boatman named **Ingham**, was accidentally drowned in the canal on Monday night opposite Messrs Rouse's Mill. The child left the cabin shortly after ten, and was seen alive no more. Next morning the father searched with a boat hook and the body was found.

21 August 29 1844

BRUTAL MURDER AT HUDDERSFIELD On Thursday last, an inquest was held at the Globe Inn, King Street, Huddersfield, before G Dyson Esq and a respectable jury, upon the body of John Kaye, aged 48 years, a labourer from Wakefield, who came to his death under the following circumstances. It appeared that the deceased had been employed on Monday last by **Joshua Wilby**, a boat captain, to assist in unloading a lime vessel, near to Shore Street Wharfs, and that an altercation ensued in the evening over the amount of wages, which ended in Wilby's jumping from his vessel, and giving the deceased a severe kicking on the body, being also assisted by one of his men named **Wm Teale**; the deceased afterwards followed Wilby to the Navigation Tavern to demand the balance of his wages, where he was again severely kicked by the same parties, and put out of the door. Deceased continued to knock at the door, and a watchman attempted to take him

away, but he resisted, and ultimately they fell to the ground; the watchman then charged a person named Batley, who was passing, to assist him, upon which deceased began to run towards the canal bridge. He was pursued by Batley, who knocked him down and again kicked him severely on the body. Deceased cried out, "Oh dear, I'm killed", but soon got up and went away towards Mold Green. Deceased was soon afterwards seen by the night engine firer at John Day's factory, standing near the toll gate, at Mold Green, making a great noise to some young men who were jibing with him, when three men came up from the direction of the town, and one of them seized him by the collar, saying I'm a constable; I will not have this noise, but will take you to Towser (prison). He and his comrades then took deceased up Smithy Lane, about sixty yards, but he refusing to go any further, the "Constable" threw him down, and sent his knee into his abdomen with great force, twice; they then brought him down the lane again towards the Toll Bar, and again repeated the knee work, both upon his body and his head, and afterwards they left him laid upon the road, and returned hastily toward the town. The unfortunate man crawled into an adjoining shed, where he lay till morning, when he was removed to his lodgings in King Street, Huddersfield, where he lingered in great agony till Wednesday morning, when death terminated his sufferings. Mr Laycock, Magistrates' Clerk, produced the depositions of deceased, which he gave a few minutes before his death; in fact he died when they were being read over to him. The depositions were read to the jury, and in them the deceased said Wilby and his man Wm Teale were the parties who took him up the lane and kicked him. Mr Day's engine man, however, could not identify them as the parties whom he saw kick deceased in Smithy Lane; the inquest was therefore adjourned to Monday and the coroner ordered Wilby and Teale, both of whom had been taken into custody upon the depositions of deceased, to be remanded to prison to that day. The inquiry lasted till after eight o'clock in the evening. The deceased has left a wife and three children in a very destitute condition.

ADJOURNED INQUEST

The inquiry was resumed on Monday, when the examination of the witnesses continued till half past six o'clock. The evidence, as will be seen from the following summary, was of a contradictory nature.

The first witness was **Edward Maud** of Morland, boatman. He deposed that he saw deceased at the basin of Sir John Ramsden's canal, about half past seven o'clock on the evening of Monday the 19th. He was requesting payment from Joshua Wilby, for whom he had been working. Wilby said, "I think you have been well paid with the meat and drink you have had; and if you don't go about your business, I will make thee". Deceased still refused to go, when Wilby jumped off his vessel and threw deceased down and kicked him severely; Wm Teale (Wilby's man) also got off the boat and said, "D--- his b--- eyes, knock his head off". Thomas Teale then caught hold of deceased, and again threw him down, and both the Teales kicked him. I saw the deceased again at the Navigation Inn, between 10 and 11, and paid for a pint of ale for him; he said he was sore all over, and would fetch a warrant on the parties the next day; deceased left the inn before me; I heard a quarrel outside the house, but did not go out.

William Westwood of Halifax, boatman, deposed : I saw John Wilby(*sic*) by his boat on Tuesday morning, the 20th; he asked me if I had seen Jack Kaye during the night: I said I had not; he replied, "He helped me 'liver yesterday, and got his dinner and share of 'lowance (allowance of drink), and then wanted money; but d--- him, I knock'd him down and punched his ribs rarely; and choose where he is this morning, he is rare and sore". I afterwards saw deceased in a laithe at the Kaye's Arms; he was in great agony, and I gave information to Mr Leech, constable, of Huddersfield.

James Campy Laycock Esq : I took the deceased's depositions on the 21st; after I had commenced, it was explained to him that he would not live long, there was a magistrate present; Mr Greenwood and Mr Clarke, surgeons, were also present. I produce the examination, which in effect was as follows :- I am 48 years of age. I left Wakefield a fortnight ago and arrived in Huddersfield on the 19th inst, and commenced unloading Wilby's boat, and loaded three carts; I went to the Navigation Inn for my wages, about seven in the evening; Wilby gave me 1s; I wanted 6d more for the carts loading: when Wilby and his man, William, said, "Oh, d---n thee, we will give it thee and all". I

kept calling him all the time, because he would not give me the sixpence; Wilby then kicked me on the knee and privates. After I left the inn, I walked about the road, about eleven o'clock at night; Wilby's man, William, followed me and kicked me again. We were all freshish; but all able to work. He kicked and punched me several times on the road; I laid down in a stable or shed, till I was brought to this place. Mr Leech came to see me at the shed. I will speak the truth, as I do not expect to get better in this world.

John Kilner of Birkhouse in Dalton, grocer, was going home on the night in question, a few minutes past eleven; passing the Navigation Inn, he saw deceased and the watchman; they were struggling together; deceased had pulled the watchman onto himself; when the watchman charged John Batley to assist him to take deceased into custody, deceased got up and ran away; Batley ran after him and overtook him, and knocked him down; deceased rolled several yards, with his belly towards Batley; Batley also kicked deceased on the lower part of the body; the man laid a few minutes before he could speak, when he cried out, "Oh dear, somebody has kicked me on the belly; you have killed me". The watchman again wished him to get up; he replied, "I can't. Let me make water; I can't hold". Batley and witness then went away home, towards Mold Green, during which Batley said, "I have given yon chap a good kick, but if I had kicked him again, it would have been higher up, and then I should have broken a rib or two".

Job Rawsley, a watchman, said that while he was on his beat on Monday night, he met deceased on the Navigation door-stones about eleven o'clock, cursing and swearing because they would not admit him into the house, I ordered him away, but he refused to go, and caught hold of my cape and pulled me backwards; I then called on Batley to assist me, he was the only man I knew among the mob that was there; deceased then ran away and Batley ran after him; I saw deceased fall, but I did not see Batley either kick or strike him. I did hear deceased cry out, "Oh dear I have been kicked over my privates, I cannot get up"; he, however, did get up after Kilner and Batley had gone away, and I never saw him after.

Job Matthewson, mill spinner at Mr John Day's of Mold Green : I work during the night. About half past 11, on the 19th inst, I saw deceased by the tollgate; in a few minutes three men came up, one of them said he was a constable, and he would take him (deceased) to Towser, if he did not make less noise; he then took hold of him and dragged him about 80 yards up Smithey Lane, when deceased would go no further; he then threw deceased down and went into his guts with his knee twice; he then brought him to the tollgate again, and again threw him down and kneed him three times in the belly and twice over the head; deceased cried out very much; deceased kept hold of the man's coat until it tore. The man who ill-used him was called by the other "Bill". I did not see the others touch him. When they left him they walked sharply away towards Huddersfield; deceased was in the middle of the road, and said he could not move; I went to my work. I should know the three men again if I saw them; the prisoners now in custody (Wilby and Teale) are not the men that ill-used him at Mold Green.

Wm Hatfield : I live at Lockwood, and am a night engineer for Jon Day and Son, Mold Green. I was at work on the night of the 19th inst. About a quarter past eleven I saw deceased reared against the gates of the tollbar; there were several persons round him; after I had stopped the engine at half past eleven our time, I called the last witness, and stopped till near twelve o'clock; I saw three men come up from Huddersfield; one acted as a constable. (The witness corroborated Matthewson as to the ill-usage). I saw deceased several times during the night; he had crept under a wall. I should know the jacket that was torn if I saw it again.

Several witnesses were then examined as to the cries of the poor man during the night; they were described as awful in the extreme.

Richard Aspinall (examined on Monday) said.: I am a working chemist and live in Smithy Lane; I belong to a lodge that is held at the Navigation; it was lodge night on the 19th; between nine and ten o'clock I had occasion to leave the lodge about three quarters of an hour. I stopped downstairs during that time, and I saw and heard Kaye disputing with Wilby and Teale about expenses; I heard the two latter swear they would punch deceased's b---y liver out before they went to bed that night; Teale then struck deceased and they all went out of doors; both Teale and Wilby struck and

punched deceased. About ten minutes before eleven I left the lodge to go home; as I went over the bridge (canal) I saw deceased laying on the opposite side of the road. A man who, I have no doubt, from his stature, (he being remarkably tall) was Wilby, was standing over him; about ten or a dozen persons were around; the man who stood over him wished him to get up; deceased said, "Oh dear, I am lamed, I cannot get up"; he was then lifted up, but instantly fell down again; the tall man then said, "D---n your sulky head, are you going to lay here all night?" and then punched him on the belly; I then left and went towards home. About half past eleven I was standing by the bar when deceased came up, supported by two young men; there was a third with them; I do not know them; the deceased was crying out most piteously, "Oh Lord, help me," and wished he was at home with his wife and family; in a few minutes afterwards three men came up from Huddersfield; one in a velvet coat acted as constable, and said he would take him to Towser, and laid hold of deceased to lift him up, but overbalancing himself, he fell on deceased, during which the constable's coat was torn, and on getting up he said, "Thou hast torn my coat" and punched him with his knee into his (deceased's) belly; the constable and his companions then left him, and deceased got up and walked across the road, and laid himself down under the iron palisading of the warehouse, holding his belly up with his hands. I then went home, and as I was going to bed I heard the deceased, a few yards below my house, crying out piteously; I looked out of the window and saw two men paddling him; I asked what they were doing; they answered that they were taking him home, and I went to bed. I thought the two men resembled Wilby and Teale; I have no doubt in my mind but it was them. I met the watchman, Rawnsley, after leaving my lodge, before I met deceased.

George Netherwood : I keep a beer and lodging house at Mold Green. The two prisoners, Walton and Patterson (who had been taken into custody on Saturday night) lodged with me. On the night in question, they came home about half past eleven or twenty minutes to twelve; Walton walked direct upstairs, and Patterson said they had had a rare spree with a drunken man, and Jack (meaning Walton) had acted as constable. They were dressed just as they are now, Walton in a velvet square coat and a hat, and Patterson in a black coat and a cloth cap.

Matthewson and Hatfield were here called in, and identified the men at the bar as those who had ill-used deceased; Walton acting the constable, and "going into his guts with his knee". The coat was also examined, and found to have been torn, as described by the witnesses.

Mr John Smith of Mold Green was examined at some length, but his evidence was of little importance.

James Kay of Longley : Found deceased laid on the road; he assisted a man named John Lockwood to paddle deceased up Smithy Lane. When they had gone about fifty yards, two men came up and said that was not his way home, and took him back. Deceased felt his privates, and said he had been kicked by some boaters, and they had ruined him forever. I should not know the two men again, as it was dark; one had a square coat and a woollen apron on, the other had a round velvet jacket on.

John Lockwood had been previously examined, but being in liquor on the night in question, his evidence was not recorded.

William James Clarke, surgeon, said : I saw deceased about five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, in a lodging house at the bottom of King Street, where he died; I found him labouring under acute inflammation of the bowels; he was so much worse the next morning that I informed Mr Leech that the deceased would not live long. I was present when Mr Laycock took his depositions; when the first half page of the deposition had been taken, I told him he had not long to live, and that he must speak the truth; he replied, he knew he should not get better, and that he had spoken nothing but the truth. After Mr Laycock had finished writing, he commenced reading it over to him; when he had read about half of it, I observed a change, and stopped Mr Laycock, as I did not think deceased was conscious after that of what was going on; up to that time, I think he was; I think he understood what had been read to him, as well as what he had said after I told him he must die. I made a *post mortem* examination about four o'clock the same afternoon; I found inflammation produced by a rupture of the ilium, a small intestine situated on the left side, immediately below the navel; a kick from the foot or knee would cause the rupture; I think that immediate pain would be felt upon

receiving the blow, as it would take his breath away, but as soon as he got his breath he would express it; it is possible that a man, under the influence of intoxicating liquors, would walk a short distance after receiving such an injury, without showing much suffering, until inflammation took place, which would be soon after; he would walk slowly, in a bent position, and to give himself relief he would keep his hands over the place to support his body; he would stoop very much.

A witness named Shaw was examined, but his evidence did not prove anything material.

William Greenwood, surgeon, said : I saw deceased about twelve o'clock on Tuesday, and was confident that he would never get better. I was also present when the depositions were taken, and at the *post mortem* examination, and I consider the principal part of Mr Clarke's evidence correct. I think, upon receiving such an injury, the man could be compelled to make water instantly (which was the case on the canal bridge). I do not think he could walk to Mold Green without great difficulty; I have no doubt he would walk in a very bent position, in the act of supporting his bowels; I think his sufferings would be extreme; I think a fall upon a hard projecting substance would cause such an injury; a kick from the foot is more likely to produce external marks of violence than the knee; but it was a fatal blow from the moment of its being given.

William Whiteley, landlord of the Navigation, was examined, but he proved nothing but the quarrelling between the deceased and Wilby. He saw the watchman and deceased together when Wilby left his house, about eleven o'clock, but saw none of the row on the bridge.

Charles Ramsden, watchman to Mr Dransfield of Mold Green, spoke to the sufferings of the poor fellow during the night, as did a host of witnesses.

Mr Barker, solicitor, attended on behalf of Walton, and Mr Mitchell of Ossett for Wilby; Mr Bakewell of Wakefield attended on behalf of the deceased's friends.

At half past six o'clock, the Coroner minutely summed up, after which the room was cleared, and the jury left to consider their verdict. After about forty minutes, they gave to the effect "that the deceased died from a ruptured intestine, caused by violence, but by whom inflicted there is at present no evidence to show", thus leaving the case open for further investigation, should anything else transpire. On the verdict becoming known to the crowd assembled in front of the Globe Inn, deep murmurs of dissatisfaction and disappointment were expressed at the result. The opinion of the crowd was that the prisoners were guilty, and ought to be committed to York Castle; however, after a little while, the assembly quietly dispersed.

22 March 13 1845

A DRUNKEN ADVENTURE Two man, named **Robert Daker**, a boatman, and Wm Elmsley, a notorious thief, were brought up at the Court House on Monday to answer a charge of robbing a person named Michael Tansey of Keighley, of a silk handkerchief, a pair of boots, and 3s in silver. Tansey, according to his own account, was a hawker of whisks, and was engaged in that capacity in Bradford during several days last week. On Friday he was drinking, however, at a beerhouse kept by one Frank Alderson, and bearing the euphonious title of the "House of Blazes" at the end of Silsbridge Lane. The prisoners were amongst his tippling companions on this occasion. At dusk on the evening of Friday, Tansey set out towards Keighley; but when he had got a little beyond the Turf Tavern public house, on the Bradford and Keighley Road, he was stopped by three men (two of whom, he swore, were the prisoners), who robbed him of the property described, and then threw him over a wall into a field. The prisoners were apprehended by a patrol the same night, and at Elmsley's they found the shoes, which Tansey identified as his property. The magistrates, after hearing the depositions, committed the prisoners for trial at the present York assizes; but as Elmsley urged that he had witnesses to show that he had exchanged the shoes with Tansey for a pair of old ones of his own, with a pint of ale to boot, the magistrates agreed to hear his witnesses. A man named Thompson, a labourer, first spoke to seeing this transaction – the "swap" between Tansey and Elmsley; and his statement was corroborated by a young wench, who gave her name as Ann Jackson, and described herself as "a milliner and dressmaker by trade, but at present living with a young man named Hardisty in George Street"; she was engaged on Friday in strumming what she dignified with the name of piano (i e a hurdygurdy) for the edification of the tipplers at the House of

the other (**Arundell**) 8s 1d. Upon looking about Medlock Street, the officer found a pocket that had been evidently torn from trousers. Doyle was locked up for safety, and also that he might be questioned about his disposal of the Scotchman's sovereign; but Friday morning, when the trio was brought up at the City Police Court, Michael confessed he knew nothing about the transactions of the evening, except that he got very drunk. His morning's reflections, he said, had not been pleasant; his examination had convinced him of the fact that his trousers pocket had been torn off. Arundell and Cheetham denied robbing Michael or anyone else; and they were discharged with a caution, as was also poor Doyle, with a hint that he had better repay the Scotchman's sovereign as quickly as possible. *Manchester Guardian*

27 March 9 1854

DROWNING On Sunday morning last, the body of **Sarah Muff**, aged 47, wife of a boatman named **Thomas Muff**, was found in the Bradford Canal. It was not known how she came to her death, but it was supposed that on going the previous evening to her husband's boat which was moored there, she had missed her way, fallen into the canal, and was drowned. At an inquest before Mr Jewison on Tuesday the jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

28 November 30 1854

MURDER AT WOLVERHAMPTON On Friday last a coroner's inquest, held at Wolverhampton, terminated in a verdict of "Wilful murder" against three Irishmen, named Samuel Moran, a bricklayer; Anthony Devaney, a collier; and David Flynn, a slater. The crime of which they are accused was committed upon the night of Saturday the 11th inst. The victim was a boatman named **Robert Leverett**, in whose company they had been drinking. They saw the deceased in Canal Street, where they set upon him and kicked him so savagely that he died. The men did not afterwards appear at their old haunts. On Friday evening printed placards appeared, offering a £150 reward by the government for the apprehension of the parties. David Flynn was apprehended on Monday in a public house about two miles from the town.

29 March 8 1855

DEATHS On Friday last, aged 39 years, **Silvester Foster**, boatman, Sun Street.

30 May 15 1856

Bingley

PETTY SESSIONS **John Hird**, boatman, was ordered immediately to pay to George Steele the sum of £1, owing to him for wages, together with costs.

31 October 2 1856

STEALING FROM A BOAT Mary Clay, a disreputable looking woman, whose intellects appeared to have been muddled by a course of dissipation, was yesterday charged at the Borough Court with stealing a neckerchief from a boat which was lying in the canal. P C Bolton took the prisoner into custody between two and three on Tuesday morning, on the charge of being in a boat for unlawful purposes. Subsequent to her arrest it transpired that a neckerchief, the property of **Charles Hird**, had been stolen from another boat. That neckerchief was found in her possession by Miss Field, the female searcher at the police station. The prisoner denied the robbery, and stated that her only reason for visiting the boats was that she wanted "a match for a man who was drunk", and that while she was quietly engaged in the innocent operation she was roughly seized and detained by the boatman. It appeared, however, from the statements of the police, that the prisoner was a very troublesome woman, that she had quite a reputation for marauding on the "Black Sea" ie the Canal, and that she had only left the House of Correction on Saturday. She was committed to the House of Correction for three months hard labour.

32 November 6 1856

GAROTTE ROBBERY At the Leeds Court House yesterday, a woman named Eliza Walker and a

man named Thomas Doherty were brought up on remand, charged with violently assaulting **John Slingsby**, boatman of Shipley, and robbing him of 37s 6d. On Monday the prosecutor came to Leeds and, after transacting his business, went to the Bradford Hotel, near Kirkgate Market. He left the public house between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, and was crossing Kirkgate Market when he was met by the female prisoner. She asked him to accompany her home, but he refused, and threatened to knock her down if she did not leave him. The woman, however, kept hold of him, and a man went up, seized him by the neck, and held him until the woman tore open his waistcoat and seized his purse which contained the sum already mentioned. Slingsby's head bled a good deal from the violence which he received, and he was otherwise injured. Police-officer Sharpe apprehended the woman shortly afterwards at her lodging in East Lane, and the prosecutor at once identified her. The male prisoner was subsequently taken into custody. The woman was committed for trial at the next Yorkshire Assizes, but an *alibi* was set up for the man, and he was discharged.

33 **October 22 1857**

ROBBERY IN A BROTHEL At the Borough Court on Saturday, a disreputable woman named Elizabeth Hobson was charged with robbing one **Wm Clapham**, a boatman, of two sovereigns and 18s 6d. He stated that he went into the British Queen public house about half past ten on Friday night. He there met with the prisoner, and was invited by her to go into her house. He went with her and paid for some gin. The gin having been drunk, he was going away, when the prisoner and a companion seized him. The prisoner robbed him of his money, two sovereigns and 18s 6d, which she gave to her companion, who immediately ran out of the house. The prisoner denied that she had robbed the man. She was committed for trial at the sessions.

34 **October 29 1857**

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY ON THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY At the Stafford Quarter Sessions, William Lane, a beerhouse keeper of Crewe, formerly an engine driver, in the employ of the North Staffordshire Railway Company; Thomas Bentley, a fireman, in the company's service; Samuel Parker alias John Lee, greengrocer of Macclesfield; Samuel Bloore, writing clerk of Macclesfield; and **John Bentley**, a boatman, were charged with stealing 500lb of cotton lace thread, valued at between £203 and £300, the property of the company. A second count charged the prisoners with receiving it with a guilty knowledge. It appeared that the thread, in five boxes, was consigned to the North Staffordshire Company on the 4th August, for conveyance to Bristol via Birmingham. The boxes were placed in a luggage van (No 3041), the door of which fastened with a spring, and could not be reopened except with a key usually kept in the goods office. The train of which this van formed a part left the station at Macclesfield at 50 minutes after seven the same evening, and arrived at Stoke-on-Trent at half past nine, where it was run into the goods station, and subsequently broken up and reformed; the carriages for Birmingham via Norton Bridge being formed into a separate train. Of this reformed train a man named Bell was the driver and the prisoner Thomas Bentley the foreman. The rails being crowded, the train was run on to the main line, where it remained upwards of an hour, until half past two o'clock in the morning; Bentley during that period being in charge of it whilst Bell was at the box of a pointsman. At this spot the robbery is supposed to have been committed for, on arriving at the station at Birmingham, the van No 3041 was examined, and the boxes were missing. To connect the prisoners with the robbery, **James Holland** and a man named **Gould** (two boatmen) who had been in custody as accomplices, and who had turned approvers, together with several disinterested persons, were examined. The jury acquitted John Bentley and Thomas Bentley, and returned a verdict of guilty against the other three. Parker and Bloore were each sentenced to four years penal servitude, and William Lane to two years imprisonment with hard labour.

35 **October 29 1857**

SINGULAR AND FATAL OCCURRENCE AT BARNESLEY On Saturday afternoon, a boatman named **John Sanderson**, about 50 years of age, trading between Knottingley and Barnesley, went up

to a stall kept by a greengrocer named Ann Hayes, at Barnsley, and commenced a conversation with her. He afterwards became very abusive and used very improper language. Feeling insulted, she took up a turnip from the stall and threw it at him. He was the worse for liquor and fell backwards on the ground. He was taken up insensible, and after lingering for two hours, he died, never having spoken after the occurrence. Mrs Hayes was at once apprehended.

36 July 14 1859

INFANTICIDE On Monday afternoon, a boatman named **Edward Wright**, while proceeding with his boat along the canal towards Shipley, observed a bulky object floating on the surface of the water. On recovering the bundle, he discovered that it contained the body of a newly born child, and took immediate steps to make the West Riding constabulary acquainted with the circumstance. Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held by Mr Jewison, at the Bolton Hotel, on the body of the child. There was no evidence, however, either to show whether the child was alive when born, or whence it had been brought. The body appeared to be that of a full grown well-formed female child, and although the medical gentleman (Mr E Sugden) was strongly inclined to infer that the child had been alive when delivered, yet decomposition had proceeded too far to enable him to determine this fact with certainty. The body was wrapped in a white cotton cloth, and also in a black Orleans skirt. A small box, containing 5lbs of lead, was suspended to the bundle, with the object of sinking the body. It was supposed it had been three or four days in the water. The lead bore some peculiar impressions, rendering identity easy, which may lead to the discovery of the persons who have applied the lead to this purpose. The jury returned a verdict to the effect of "Found in the canal, but how it came thither there is no evidence to show."

37 September 22 1859

DEATHS On Thursday last, aged 70, Sarah wife of Mr Thomas **Hunt**, boatman, Lower Globe, Manningham.

38 August 16 1860

DEATHS On Monday last, at the Union Workhouse, aged 27, Ann wife of Samuel **Binns**, boatman.

39 March 7 1861

Halifax

ALLEGED HIGHWAY ROBBERY There are at present four persons in the custody of the Halifax West Riding police on a charge of robbing **John Oade**, a boatman of Brighouse, while on his way home on the night of the 25th February. The names of the prisoners are : H Mullins, cattle drover; Frederick Horton, cabinet maker, Kirkheaton; Hannah Wainhouse, Halifax, and Elizabeth Whitaker, Keighley. Oade asserts that he was going home when one of the women accosted him. He told her he did not want to have anything to do with her. One of the men then came up and pushed him down, while the other man prevented him from giving an alarm. About two shillings were stolen from him. The parties were apprehended a few days after for passing bad notes at Wakefield. While in prison, one of the women detailed the robbery in Brighouse. They were then sent over to Halifax, and will come up for examination today (Thursday).

40 August 15 1861

FOUND DROWNED On Tuesday a boy named **Harrison**, aged 8 years, the son of a boatman, was drowned by falling into the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Basin at Union Wharf.

41 October 22 1862

BOARD OF GUARDIANS The weekly meeting of this body was held yesterday, at the board room at the Union Workhouse. Mr Alderman Brayshaw occupied the chair, and the other guardians present were Joshua Pollard Esq, Capt Pollard, Major Wood (ex officio), Messrs Townend, John Smith, J Moore, Cliff, Milnes, Nutter, Bower, Jennings, Samuel Smith, Whitley, Bentham and

Bakes. Mr Williams, the workhouse master, reported that a poor woman, named **Susannah Best**, was admitted into the vagrant ward on Saturday night. On Sunday morning he found her very ill, in consequence of having, as it was said, taken poison. He immediately administered an antidote, and sent for the medical officer. The antidote caused her to vomit, and the medical officer approved of what he had done. He found a quantity of sugar of lead upon the poor woman. She stated that her husband was a boatman, and at present imprisoned in Armley Gaol for ill-usage. He had been previously imprisoned for the same offence. She applied to a relieving officer, named Moore, at Leeds last week, and he refused to give her any relief, telling her to appear before the Board of Guardians on Wednesday. The woman, in a destitute condition wandered to Bradford. It was ordered that the woman be sent before the magistrates for the attempt upon her own life, simply with a view to warn her against a repetition of the dreadful act.

42 October 2 1862

Leeds

COMMITTAL FOR HORSE STEALING Two men, named **John Emmitt** and --- **Jones** were, on Saturday, charged at the Leeds Town Hall with stealing a horse, value £20, the property of Mr John Bottomley, innkeeper &c, Skipton. The prisoner Emmitt was employed as a boatman on board a vessel called the *Bella Ann* belonging to the prosecutor, and the horse was used to pull the boat on the canal between Skipton and Leeds. On the 24th, Emmitt was engaged on the boat, which was then lying with a cargo of stones in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, at Leeds. Jones, who is known to be an acquaintance of Emmitt's, was seen about the boat and, during the day, the horse was missed from its stable. On Friday the prisoners went to the house of Mr Bleasby, farmer and horse dealer, Hunslet, and urged him to purchase the horse. This he eventually agreed to do, and gave the prisoners £3 3s for the animal. Subsequently he had some misgivings and followed the prisoners when, failing to get any respectable reference, he demanded back the £3 3s. At this moment a policeman appeared and apprehended the prisoners. They were committed for trial.

43 April 2 1863

STEALING COAL Yesterday at the Borough Court, a person named **Alfred Bower**, a boatman, was charged with stealing a sack of coals, value 6d, the property of one Wm Harwood. About half past one yesterday morning, Police-constable Gomersal saw the defendant and another coming from Balme Street, each having a sack of coal on his back. On enquiring where they had got the coals and whither they were going, the other man threw down the sack he carried and ran off. He found that the coal had been brought from the yard of the Low Moor Company, and the sacks were identified by Mr Wm Harwood. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was committed for 14 days to hard labour.

44 June 1 1865

STEALING WEARING APPAREL At the West Riding Police Court on Monday, before Wm Rand Esq and Benjn Harrison Esq, a young woman named Ann Forrester was charged with stealing a large quantity of wearing apparel, the property of a person named **Kendall**, a boatman residing at Shipley. The prisoner is the sister of the prosecutor's wife, and was received into his house and work obtained for her at a mill. On the 17th ult, she was left in sole charge of the prosecutor's dwelling house, and when the prosecutor and his wife returned on the 26th ult they found that the prisoner had gone, and a large quantity of wearing apparel, consisting of silk dresses, a Paisley shawl, &c, and valued at £12, had been stolen. Most of the stolen property had been found, pledged by the prisoner, at Leeds. The prisoner pleaded guilty and was committed for four calendar months to the House of Correction.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.
THE QUEEN v. THE BRADFORD NAVIGATION.
MONDAY, MAY 29.

(Before Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, Mr. Justice Compton,
Mr. Justice Blackburn, and Mr. Justice Shee).

Mr. Maule: My lords, I am instructed to apply to this Court under very special circumstances to allow a case, which, at the trial before Mr. Baron Martin, at the last Leeds Assizes, was turned into a special case to take precedence of the other cases in the Crown paper for the following reasons—it was an indictment against the proprietors of the Bradford Navigation, preferred last summer, brought up by *certiorari* and then sent down to be tried upon the *Nisi Prius* side at the Assizes, and a verdict was entered by consent of both parties of guilty against the proprietors, subject to a special case raising the question of their legal liability for the state of the canal. Mr. Baron Martin, who presided, expressed his opinion that it was very desirable that the matter should come on and be settled at once, because the state of the canal was such that during the hot weather it was very injurious to all the inhabitants of Bradford, and it is necessary for the health of the place that this question should be decided one way or the other, for it was admitted that the state of the canal, was in fact, a public nuisance. Whether or not they are legally liable is the question. We are desirous, and I have the consent of the other side, if your lordships will allow it to be done, that the case should take precedence of the other cases, so that it may be determined before the state of the hot weather gets too bad, and the dog days begin. The facts is, the contents of the town sewage are poured into the canal, and making it so far as they can a floating element, and this in hot weather becomes a tremendous nuisance to the district, and it became necessary to have an indictment preferred to try whether they can be compelled to clean out this canal. If your lordships think it is such a case, taking the circumstances into consideration, that it should be advanced, I should ask your lordships to advance it that it may be heard this term.

Mr. Justice Compton: It must be in the special paper.

The Master (Mr. Malcolm): It would go into the Crown paper.

Lord Chief Justice Cockburn: We will confer with my Brother Martin.

TUESDAY, MAY 30.

Mr. Maule: May I ask whether any arrangement has been made with respect to the case of the Bradford Navigation? Your lordships said you would speak to Mr. Baron Martin.

Lord Chief Justice Cockburn: We have not done it yet.

Mr. Maule: Mr. Kemplay, who is on the other side, is present.

Mr. Kemplay: I may state I cannot attend to-morrow. I am instructed on behalf of the defendants to leave the matter entirely in the hands of the Court.

Lord Chief Justice Cockburn: You have no objection to it.

Mr. Kemplay: No, my lord.

(By Electric Telegraph).

London, May 31.

The case of Queen v. Bradford Canal is fixed for Wednesday in next week.

46 August 3 1865

Leeds

On Saturday, at the Leeds Town Hall, **Thomas Greenwood** was brought up, on remand, charged with firing a gun into a crowd of children. The prisoner is a boatman on the river Ire, and on Friday the 21st, being annoyed by several people throwing stones at him from the banks, he fired a gun at them. Five children were injured, one of them, Jane Simpson, so severely that she had to be taken to the Infirmary. The prisoner was committed to take his trial at the ensuing assizes at Leeds, but was liberated on bail.

47 August 17 1865

Yorkshire Summer Assizes

SHOOTING AT CHILDREN IN LEEDS **Thomas Greenwood** (19), boatman, was charged with unlawfully discharging a loaded gun, and wounding Jane Simpson, Joseph Pickergill and Edward McDermott. Jane Simpson, on being examined, said she lived in Cherry Tree Yard, and worked at

Holdsworth's Mill. On the day named, at about one o'clock, witness was walking on the side of the river Aire, and when turning a corner the prisoner discharged a gun from the deck of a boat which was going up the river towards Leeds, and several shots struck her in various parts of her body. It appeared that the prisoner had been annoyed by some children throwing stones, and in order to frighten them away had taken up the gun, which was lying near the chimney of the boat, and presented it three times, and on the last occasion fired it off with the results stated. The prisoner was found guilty, but without intent to do grievous bodily harm. Sentenced to three months imprisonment.

48 February 1 1866

DEATHS GREENWOOD Jan 29, aged 28, **Zaccheus Greenwood**, canal boatman, Lime Kilns, Bradford.

49 September 6 1866 Bingley

ASSAULTING A WIFE Yesterday, at the Bingley Court House, **John Emmott** of Dubb, boatman, was charged with assaulting his wife, Nancy. It appeared from the evidence that the parties had been married about seven years, but had not lived very comfortable together. On Monday the defendant struck his wife most severely over her face &c, and afterwards kicked her. In answer to the bench, the defendant said, "I have nothing to say only that I do not wish to live with her". The chairman, after giving the defendant a lecture on his conduct, said that he would be committed to the House of Correction for three months, and at the expiration of that time, he would have to be bound over to keep the peace for six months, in £10 and two sureties in £5 each.

50 September 27 1866

MISCELLANEOUS On Thursday last Thomas McDonough, a tailor at Preston, died from the effects of a blow on the head from a brick end, thrown at him a few days previously by **John Vickers**, a boatman, which had produced an abscess. At the inquest, on Friday night, the jury returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against Vickers.

51 October 17 1868

THE SHOOTING OF FOUR CHILDREN AT LEICESTER **Charles Mitchell**, boatman, Cleethorpes, was charged on remand with shooting at Edwin Brown. The boy Brown, who attended the court for the first time, said he was twelve years old, and on the first day of Leicester races he was with the scholars and teachers of Bishop Street School in a field near the canal. Shortly after four o'clock he was near the water side, and saw some of the children "skimming" stones across the water. He saw the boat passing, and was turning away to join some boys who were playing at football when he heard the report of a gun, and felt some blood running down his face. He ran up the field, and fell into his teacher's arms. His eyes were both badly hurt, but he was now able to see a little out of the right eye. He had several shots in his cheeks, and one tooth was knocked out. Charles Bass, the young man who followed Mitchell, said when he got into the boat prisoner asked him if the child was dead, and on being told he was very badly hurt, he said, "If he gets better I'll pay the doctor's bill, and if it doesn't I must have the rope. I did not know the gun was loaded, and I didn't think it would carry so far. I have never had a gun in my hand in my life before". Prisoner was committed for trial at the sessions.

52 February 25 1869 Bingley

SUDDEN DEATH On Monday an inquest was held at the Court House, before Mr T Taylor, coroner on view of the body of Mr **John Lawton** of Leeds, boatman aged forty one years, who died on Friday evening at the Three Rise Locks, Bingley. The deceased had for a long time been subject to palpitation of the heart, caused by sleeping in a damp bed some time ago in Liverpool. On Friday evening, when returning from Skipton, he and his companion boatman, **Robert Wooler**, arrived at the Three Rise Locks about a quarter before seven, and soon after, and while the boat was

in the middle lock, he dropped down dead. He had been raising the clough in the low lock and was returning to strap the boat. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from natural causes.

53 May 15 1869

FATAL ACCIDENT AT SOWERBY BRIDGE Yesterday evening an inquest was held by Mr Barstow, deputy coroner, at the Wharf Inn, Sowerby Bridge, on the body of **Joseph Riley Gledhill**, aged 32, boatman, who resided at Water Terrace, and who died on the previous evening from injuries sustained by falling down a flight of sixteen steps adjoining his house, on the previous Sunday. It appeared that he came home rather worse for liquor at half past eight on Sunday evening, and went to bed; but at half past ten got up and went out for a short time. Soon afterwards his wife heard him call out, "I am going Liz", on which she got up and went out, and found him lying insensible at the bottom of the steps. He was afterwards attended to by Dr Elliott and Mr Turney, but he did not recover. It is supposed that he had fallen from the top of the steps to the bottom, the steps having no side rails. Verdict "Accidental death" with a recommendation to the owner of the house to have rails attached to the steps.

54 May 27 1869

MAN DROWNED AT HALIFAX At a quarter past six yesterday morning the body of William Burke, labourer, Isle of Man Yard, Halifax, was found drowned in the canal near Caddy Field by **James Widdop**, a boatman. Deceased was last seen alive by his wife on the 19th inst. The body was removed to the Ship Inn, Waterside, where the inquest is to be held.

55 June 12 1869

CHARGE OF OUTRAGE ON A GIRL Yesterday at the Otley Court House, before Messrs T Horsfall and W Fison, a Shipley boatman named **Edmund Heeles** was charged with having committed an outrage on a girl, ten years old, named Mary Fairweather, of Baildon. It was alleged against him that on Monday he enticed her into a wood near Saltaire, to get some flowers, and then committed the offence. He was committed for trial at the next assizes. Mr M Barret of Otley prosecuted.

56 September 11 1869

SUSPECTED SUICIDE BY DROWNING AT BRIGHOUSE On Thursday afternoon, a man named Thomas Kaye, aged seventy, of Lane Ends, Brighouse, was found drowned in the canal near the Anchor Pit Inn, in the township of Rastrick, by a boatman named **Henry Clay**, of Brighouse. About half an hour before he was found, he was seen by Ann Addy of Mirfield, going in the direction where he was found drowned, and he had left his coat on the canal bank. He had been under the care of Mr Pugh, surgeon, Brighouse, several weeks.

57 December 6 1869

A LOCK KEEPER FOUND DROWNED AT KIRKSTALL Mr Emsley, the Leeds coroner, held an inquest on Saturday, on the body of **Samuel Rosebottom** (36), who was the keeper of the Kirkstall Forge Locks on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and whose body had been found by a boatman on Friday. It appeared that on Thursday evening the deceased was at the Station Inn and the Star and Garter, both in Kirkstall; that he got the worse for liquor, and left to go home about half past ten o'clock. As the night was very foggy, it is supposed that he missed his way, and fell into the water. Verdict accordingly.

58 February 5 1870

FATAL ACCIDENTS AT HALIFAX AND NEIGHBOURHOOD An inquest was held yesterday before Mr W Barstow at the White Cross Inn, Cooper Bridge near Brighouse, on **Mary Tunnicliffe**, aged twenty nine, wife of a boatman named **John Tunnicliffe**. On the previous Wednesday she and her husband were with the boat at Cooper Bridge Lock, and on going to open the lock the

unfortunate woman fell in and was drowned before her husband could get her out. Verdict "Accidental death".

59 April 2 1870

THE DEATH BY DROWNING AT IDLE Yesterday an inquest was held at Idle, at the house of Mr Hainsworth Boys, Shoulder of Mutton Inn, on the body of Ann Hudson, aged 26, who was drowned in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. The first witness called was Emma Slingsby, the sister of the deceased, who identified the body. Hannah Skirrow, Mr James Whitehead and Earl Bateman were also examined. It appeared from their evidence that on Wednesday evening the deceased and Hannah Skirrow were returning to Thackley from the Rock Cliff farm house occupied by Mr Whitehead, where they had been to fetch some eggs and milk. At the bottom of Mr Whitehead's garden there was a wooden turn bridge over which the young women had to pass to get on to the other side of the canal. It being about eight o'clock in the evening it was rather dark and the deceased, who was walking before her companion, had some difficulty in finding the bridge. At last she got on to the bridge, and calling to the young woman Skirrow told her to come on and she would be all right. The deceased was two yards in advance, and when she got to the end of the bridge, she fell into the water. Skirrow screamed out for assistance, and James Whitehead came at once and endeavoured to find the young woman who had fallen in. He jumped into the canal, and was also assisted in the search by a retriever dog, but failed to find the body of the young woman. In a short time, Bateman, Sergeant Bowker and PC Almond were on the spot, and commenced to drag for the body, and after a search of two hours they succeeded in bringing it to the bank. **John Proctor**, a lock keeper on the canal, was present and produced the bye laws of the canal company, which stated that if any boatman found a turn bridge closed, and neglected to close it after passing through, he should be liable to a fine. **Joseph Scott**, the master and **Robert Morton** were in attendance. It had been alleged that they were the persons last through the bridge, and had neglected to close it properly; but the coroner said he could not compel them to give evidence. The coroner said, in summing up the evidence, that the jury had no proof or knowledge, beyond mere rumours, as to who it was who had opened the bridge and neglected to close it, and they would either have to return a verdict on the evidence before them, or the inquest would have to be adjourned in order that inquiries might be made. The jury were left to consider their verdict, and after a lengthy consultation, they found that "Ann Hudson had been drowned by falling accidentally into the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Rycroft's Bridge".

60 May 16 1870

KILLING PHEASANTS At the West Riding Police Court, Doncaster, on Saturday, **John Rates** of Newland was charged with killing a pheasant without a license, and **Benj Ward**, of Stickney, was charged with having possession of the same out of season. On the Saturday previous Rates was seen to shoot the pheasant in the parish of Spotbro', and afterwards to take and put it on Ward's boat – both of them being boatmen, Ward afterwards gave the pheasant up to Sir Joseph Copley's keeper. Each of them was fined 10s and costs.

61 May 31 1870

THEFT OF CLOTHES AT IDLE At the West Riding Court, Bradford, yesterday, before Messrs J Pollard, J V Godwin, Captain Pollard and E Salt, two canal boatmen named **Joseph Gobbin** and **William Bickerstaff** were charged with stealing a quantity of clothes belonging to Mr Benjamin Bottomley, butcher and farmer, Idle. From the evidence it appeared that the clothes, consisting of two sheets, two chemises and one night dress were, last Tuesday afternoon, placed by Mrs Bottomley to dry in a field adjoining her house, and on the banks of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Idle. Mrs Bottomley saw the two prisoners near the place, and spoke to them. Later in the afternoon she missed the clothes, and her suspicion fell upon the prisoners. She told her husband, who immediately rode off on horseback after the prisoners, and came up to them about a mile and a half from his own house. They were walking along together on the canal bank, and the prisoner

Gobbin was carrying the clothes in a bundle. Gobbin delivered up the clothes, saying that it was poverty which had caused them to commit the crime. Gobbin was apprehended on Thursday at Stanningley, in a lodging house, and Bickerstaff on Friday at Skipton. Both prisoners pleaded guilty, and they were committed to take their trial at the sessions.

62 June 29 1870

West Riding Sessions

FOUR MONTHS IMPRISONMENT **Joseph Gobbin** (24), boatman, and **Wm Bickerstaff**, alias **Widge** (25), boatman, stealing wearing apparel the property of Benjamin Bottomley at Idle.

63 February 7 1871

THEFT OF A COAT AT SHIPLEY At the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, yesterday, **Robert Tempest**, a boatman, was charged with stealing a coat, the property of Mr Alexander Dixon, commercial traveller, at Shipley. It appeared that the prosecutor, who had just arrived at Shipley from Carlisle, went to the Royal Oak beerhouse for the purpose of getting a wash. While he was engaged in his ablutions, the prisoner went away with his coat, which he had thrown onto a longsettle. The prisoner was followed and found by a man named Ridgeway at the Prince of Wales Inn, Saltaire Road. He was wearing the coat at the time and he pleaded guilty to the theft. He was committed to prison for two calendar months with hard labour.

64 May 6 1871

DEATH BY DROWNING AT HALIFAX An inquest was held yesterday afternoon before Mr Dyson at the Calder and Hebble Inn, Salterhebble, on **James Weldrake**, aged fourteen years, son of a boatman. It appeared that on the previous day he was missed for an hour from the boat, when he was found drowned in the canal. He had been opening a lock gate by himself, and it was supposed that he had fallen into the water unobserved. Verdict, "Found drowned".

65 February 7 1873

RAILWAY FATALITY A boatman named **William Whitehouse**, of Bilston, was crossing the London and North Western Railway at Bloomfield on Wednesday morning when he was knocked down by the 10.55 express train from Wolverhampton and instantly killed. The body of deceased was horribly mutilated, different parts having been severed and scattered about the line. The remains were taken to the Violin Inn, where an inquest will be held in due course.

66 March 31 1873

FOUND DROWNED On Friday morning **Mr Luke Lund**, boatman of Silsden, aged twenty six, was found drowned in the canal at Skipton. The deceased had been drinking the previous evening, and it is believed that in the dark he walked into the water and was accidentally drowned.

67 June 10 1873

At the Salford Borough Court yesterday, **Richard Walker**, a boatman, was charged with attempting to drown John Bonney and Henry Parker by throwing them into the Bury and Bolton Canal. The prisoner was remanded.

68 August 23 1873

THIRTY CHILDREN ACCIDENTALLY POISONED AT BLACKBURN An inquest was held yesterday at Blackburn, before Mr Hargreaves, District Coroner, relative to the death of an infant three years old named E C Harrison, son of **John Harrison**, boatman, Addison Street. It was proved that on the previous Wednesday a quantity of ashes had been carted from the extensive manufactory of Messrs Jackson Brothers, George Street, West. With these ashes there had been intermingled a quantity of arsenical soda which, in 1866, had been supplied to the Messrs Jacksons for manufacturing purposes. The deceased and twenty nine others had picked up the soda in question, under the impression, from its crystallised appearance, that it was alum, and had sucked it.

The deceased had died from its effects, and twenty nine others had in consequence been attacked with sudden illness. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased had been accidentally poisoned. Some of the other children are not expected to recover, but the majority are out of danger.

69 August 26 1873

James Johnson, thirty three, boatman, was placed in the dock at the Leeds Town Hall yesterday, charged with stabbing a lad named William Simpson. The prisoner was remanded until Saturday next, the prosecutor being unable to appear.

70 October 16 1873

At the Manchester City Police Court yesterday, **George Ashley**, a boatman, was committed for trial on a charge of assault. Defendant was mate of a barge, and had quarrelled with his captain, Thomas Ward, thrown him into the canal, and endeavoured to hold him down with a boat hook. Afterwards he violently assaulted Ward's wife.

71 November 25 1873

NINE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT **Thomas Copley** (39), boatman stealing five geese and a sack, the property of John Clarkson, at Methley, on the 7th November.
ACQUITTED **William Ward** (41), boatman, details as above.

72 December 15 1873

CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION A boatman named **Thomas Carr**, in the employ of the Liverpool Customs, brought an action against a man named Banks, for injuries he had received through the negligence of the defendant's servant, he having let a heavy chain fall on plaintiff's head. £600 damages was awarded the plaintiff.

73 December 15 1873

THE ALLEGED MURDER AT BURNLEY At the Liverpool Assizes on Saturday, the Grand Jury ignored the bill against a boatman named **John Fletcher**, who was charged with having murdered a woman named Bridget Russell, with whom he cohabited, by throwing her into the canal at Burnley.

74 January 13 1874

A MAN FOUND DROWNED NEAR BARNOLDSWICK Yesterday afternoon, what appears to be the third of a series of melancholic fatalities taking place in one family, was revealed at Barnoldswick. It appears that a boatman named **Arnold Trayford**, about thirty two years of age, has for some time lived at Barnoldswick. He was a married man, and had three children. Some time ago he had a child burned to death by accident. About three weeks ago a second child suffered the same fate, and the family was thrown into the utmost consternation and dejection. On Wednesday last, the father, who is rather short-sighted, and who had been chiefly employed in unloading boats upon the Leeds and Liverpool canal, went to meet a boat, which was coming from Burnley, with the view of getting a job at Foulridge Tunnel, through which boats have to be drawn by manual labour. Since he left last Wednesday he had not been seen, and as his friends began to be alarmed for his safety, several men went out yesterday to search for him. Between one and two o'clock two men named Demain and Starkey found his body in the canal near the tunnel, and brought it to Barnoldswick, where an inquest will be held.

75 March 18 1874

INQUESTS IN BRADFORD Yesterday evening two inquests were held at the Ring of Bells, Bradford, by Mr Thomas Taylor, coroner. The first inquiry was touching the death of **Titus Keighley**, aged 49 years, a canal boatman. It appeared that for some time he had suffered from a bronchial infection, and for the last three weeks he had been in a model lodging house in Captain Street, as a lodger. On Saturday night he went to bed at the usual hour, and on Sunday morning was

found by the attendant in his bedroom quite dead. The verdict was "That deceased had died from natural causes".

76 April 14 1874

A boatman named **Walter Kirkby** is in custody at Doncaster for stabbing another boatman named **George Crisp** on Saturday night. Crisp found the prisoner abusing his wife, and on interfering, Kirkby stabbed him in the eye with a knife.

77 May 6 1874

THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF DROWNING AT SHIPLEY The adjourned inquiry was held yesterday by Mr W Barstow, coroner, at the Junction Hotel, Shipley, into the circumstances connected with the finding of the body of a woman in the canal basin at Shipley, on the 29th ult. The woman had evidently been some time in the water, and inquiries which were made resulted in the body being identified as that of **Nancy Varley**, wife of a boatman plying between Leeds and Skipton. **George Varley**, the husband of the deceased, deposed that he saw her last on Saturday fortnight, when she left the boat just below Shipley to buy some provisions for the Sunday dinner, it being understood that she would overtake it on its passage up to Skipton. She did not, however, return, and the boat proceeded on its journey without her. He did not learn anything of her till he arrived at Shipley on the return journey. She had previously been absent for two or three weeks at a time, and was addicted to drinking. Deceased was twenty seven years of age. They had been married eleven years, and had one child six years of age. Thomas Ives, a joiner living at Shipley, spoke to finding the body of the deceased in the canal basin on the 29th ult, and calling in the assistance of P C Haigh, by whom and others the body was taken out of the water. Dr Murgatroyd, of Shipley, who had examined the body, found no marks except a black eye, evidently the result of a blow. There were no other marks to indicate that the woman had struggled to save herself from being pushed into the water. The appearance of the body favoured the assumption that death had resulted from drowning. Elizabeth Wood said that deceased came to her house on the Saturday evening that she left the boat, about half past eleven. She was then intoxicated, and next day told witness that she had been quarrelling with a woman named **Kendall**, another boat woman. She did not complain of any conduct of her husband as a reason why she had not gone with the boat. Deceased stayed at her house until the Tuesday after, when she left about half past ten in the forenoon. Another witness, Mrs Hall, landlady of the Beehive beerhouse, spoke to the deceased coming to her house on the evening of the same day in company with a man, who treated her to some beer. Deceased stayed until closing time, and left the house by herself. In witness's opinion she was not drunk then, and she did not observe any appearance of a black eye. There was no quarrelling in the house during the time the deceased was there. The Coroner having remarked on the evidence, a verdict of "Found drowned, without evidence to show how death had resulted" was returned, the jury being, however, of opinion that deceased, after leaving the Beehive Inn, had wandered down to the canal basin, probably with the idea of finding a boat there in which to lodge for the night. A recommendation was added that the entrance to the basin should be protected by a gateway.

78 June 19 1874

SUICIDE AT IDLE An inquest was held on Wednesday evening at the Roebuck Inn, Greengates, by Mr T Taylor, coroner, on view of the body of Susannah Dugdale, who was found in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal on the previous evening. The deceased was a native of Burnley, but has resided with her sister, who lives at the Idle Locks on the above canal, since November last. She had been observed to be low spirited, having even been heard to say that she would drown herself, and on being absent for a short time on Tuesday evening, search was made, and the body of the unfortunate woman was found by two boatmen named **Smith** and **Bateman**. The deceased was forty years of age, and unmarried. The jury returned a verdict of "Drowned herself while in an unsound state of mind."

79 July 1 1874

West Riding Sessions

EIGHTEEN MONTHS IMPRISONMENT **Thomas Bucktrout** (26), boatman, stealing rope, the property of Thomas Ware, at Kippax.

80 August 29 1874

INQUESTS IN BRADFORD Mr Thomas Taylor, coroner, held two inquests at Farnell's Hotel, Park Road, Bradford, yesterday, on the bodies of Joseph Walsh and Thomas Watman Hagar, who were found drowned on Thursday morning, the one in the Canal at Bolton Woods, and the other in Messrs Rouse's mill dam. In the case of the man Hagar, evidence was produced which showed that his age was forty nine, and his occupation that of a cab driver. He had been seen drunk every day by a canal boatman named **Long**, who last saw him alive about a quarter to eight o'clock on Wednesday evening on the road near the canal basin. Thomas Denison, Bolton Road, deposed to having found the body of the deceased at about a quarter past seven o'clock on Thursday morning floating in the water of Messrs Rouse's mill dam. The jury found the deceased committed suicide while in a state of temporary insanity.

81 September 8 1874

A MAN FOUND DROWNED AT MIRFIELD Yesterday morning a boatman named **William Schofield** found the dead body of a man, apparently about forty years of age, in the canal of the Aire and Calder Navigation Company. Deceased is supposed to be Edward Mallinson of Morley, who has been missing for some days. An inquest is to be held today.

82 September 11 1874

KICKING A WIFE TO DEATH A boatman named **William Worthington** of Litherland was brought up at the Wigan Borough Police Court yesterday, charged with murdering his wife by kicking her. The Chief Constable stated that on the 29th August the prisoner and his wife were in Vauxhall Road, Liverpool, their boat lying at Boundary Bridge. The prisoner asked the woman for some money, and on her giving him a shilling he kicked her on the side and the lower part of the body until she bled profusely. They afterwards went to the boat, where he resumed his brutal conduct, kicking his wife so violently as to break his wife's stay bone and frightfully injure her about the abdomen. She was taken to the house of a Mrs Suffey, in Hopwood Street, and on Saturday last was brought to Wigan. She died at half past four o'clock on Wednesday morning. Prisoner was remanded for a week. The prisoner was deceased's second husband, and she leaves a child eighteen months old, of which he is the father, and six children by her former husband.

A boatman named **Henry Webster** was on Wednesday sent to prison for six months hard labour, by the Salford Magistrates, for assaulting his wife.

83 September 15 1874

THE ALLEGED MURDER BY A BOATMAN **William Worthington**, master of the *Flateda*, trading between Liverpool and Wigan, was yesterday charged at the Liverpool Police Court with the murder of his wife. They quarrelled in Liverpool, and he knocked her down and kicked her, renewing the violence when on board the boat. She was taken to Wigan, where she died on the 10th instant. When arrested, he said, "It was a bad job, and I wouldn't have done it for a thousand pounds". The man was remanded pending the result of the inquest at Wigan.

84 November 9 1874

FOUND DROWNED On Saturday a boatman named **Samuel Whiteley** found the dead body of a man, at present unknown, in the Aire and Calder Canal, at Mirfield. Deceased, who appears to be about twenty four years of age, is supposed to be a boatman.

85 December 7 1874

LOCAL AND DISTRICT **John Unwin**, boatman, was, at the Skipton Petty Sessions on Saturday, sent to prison for a month for knocking his wife down and kicking her.

86 January 5 1875

EXECUTION OF FOUR MEN Three of the four men sentenced to death at the last Liverpool Assizes were executed in Kirkdale gaol yesterday morning. It will be recollected that three young men – Peter Campbell, John McCrave and Michael Mullen – were tried before Mr Justice Mellor and condemned for the murder of Richard Morgan, on the 3rd of August last, by kicking him to death in Titheburn Street, one of the most crowded Liverpool thoroughfares. Down almost to the last moment it was fully expected that all would have to suffer the extreme penalty of the law, and so greatly has public feeling been shocked by the brutal character of the outrage of which they had been found guilty that but little sympathy was felt for them, and but very little interest was felt in their unhappy fate. Campbell, however, was recommended to mercy by the jury who tried the case, and his friends got up a strong memorial in his favour, principally relying upon his youth and the fact that he had never before been in the hands of the police. But little hope was entertained, however, of any successful results of the friendly efforts, and it was generally supposed that Kirkdale would yesterday morning be a second time the scene of a quadruple execution, such an execution of four men at once having previously taken place there in September 1863. On Saturday morning, however, a reprieve arrived for Campbell, and the number left for execution was reduced to three. McCrave and Mullen, Campbell's companions in what was locally known as the "Tithebarn Street Murder", and **William Worthington**, who was sentenced to death at the same Assizes for the murder of his wife. The crimes for which the culprits have paid the penalty of their lives are so fresh in the recollection of the public that but a brief reference to them is necessary. The murder for which McCrave, Mullen and Campbell were condemned took place, as already stated, on the night of the 3rd August last. Shortly before nine o'clock a young man named Richard Morgan, a porter at a local provision store, was returning home with his wife along Tithebarn Street, having previously been met by Morgan's brother. When near the corner of Lower Milk Street they were accosted by McCrave, who asked the deceased for sixpence to pay for a quart of beer. As the man was a stranger, the deceased not unnaturally refused to comply with the request, and somewhat satirically asked McCrave where he worked. The latter replied, "I work at knocking down such men as you, to take it off you when we can", and knocked Morgan down. The deceased's brother upon this knocked McCrave down. Campbell and Mullen then came up, and in spite of the entreaties of his wife, and in the presence of a crowd of men and boys, literally kicked the deceased to death, being further assisted in their brutal outrage by McCrave, who had in the meantime got away from the deceased's brother. This was the brutal outrage for which McCrave and Mullen forfeited their own lives. Worthington's crime, the murder of his wife, was also attended by circumstances of the most revolting brutality. The culprit was a canal boatman, thirty three years of age, and his wife lived with him on his boat. On the night of the 29th of August, the boat being at Liverpool, Worthington and his wife were at a public house, which they left about eleven o'clock, having had some words about the deceased's age. Soon after the culprit was seen kicking the unfortunate woman, and though a policeman was called, and saw she was suffering considerably, he refused to interfere. The woman subsequently died from further ill-usage at the hands of Worthington. All the culprits were Roman Catholics. They retired to rest early on Sunday night and appeared to sleep soundly. At a quarter to seven they were visited by Father Bonte, the Roman Catholic chaplain of the gaol, from whom they received the sacrament of the Holy Communion. Worthington was the only one who partook of breakfast, soon after which a procession was formed to the scaffold, the usual painful preliminaries were gone through, and the unfortunate men were placed under the fatal beam. They all appeared to pay great attention to the prayers read by the chaplain, and repeatedly beat their breasts, saying at the same time, "Lord be merciful to me a sinner", "Oh God forgive me", &c. The executioner, who was Calcraft's late assistant, and whose name is Anderson, then drew the bolt, and the three culprits were launched into eternity, dying almost instantaneously and without a

struggle. The morning was dark and drear, the dim gaslights in the gaol adding as it were additional gloom to the melancholy scene.

James Canwell, aged fifty, who was convicted at the last session of the Central Criminal Court of the murder of a woman named Emma Bellamy by beating her on the head with a shoemaker's hammer and cutting her throat, was executed yesterday morning within the gaol at Newgate. The crime was known as the "Lisson Grove Murder". The prisoner, who was a widower, had met the deceased woman casually in a public house, about five weeks before the fatal occurrence, and although it appeared that he had previously been a sober, well conducted man, he subsequently took to drinking. The deceased was a married woman, but separated from her husband, and it was suggested at the trial that the prisoner committed the act out of a feeling of anger at discovering that the woman was not a widow as she had represented. The evidence did not bear out the suggestion, but it appeared that immediately after the crime the prisoner had expressed remorse, and since he has been in custody he has conducted himself in a becoming manner. He went to bed early on Sunday night, but he slept very little, and got up and dressed himself about six o'clock. Shortly afterwards he was visited by the ordinary, the Rev Lloyd Jones, and also by the surgeon, Dr Gibson, and Mr Sidney Smith, the governor, whom he thanked for the kindness he had received from them. To the ordinary he frequently expressed his regret for the crime, and also a hope that he should be pardoned in another world. Mr Ellis and Mr Shaw, the sheriffs, and the under sheriffs, Messrs Eliott and Sedgewick, arrived at the prison shortly after half past seven o'clock, and a little before eight Mr Smith introduced them to the cell of the prisoner. He was calm, and thanked all the officials for the kindness he had received from them, and submitted to the operation of pinioning without saying a word, except to request the executioner, Marwood of Taunton, not to pinion him too tightly. The prisoner bell at this moment began to toll and the officials proceeded to the scaffold, the ordinary reading the burial service in an impressive manner. Since the last execution at Newgate an entirely new apparatus has been constructed for the execution of criminals. Formerly a portion of the old scaffold had been utilised for the purpose, and the culprit had to walk up a ladder and to mount several steps. This was obviously inconvenient, especially in the case of a prisoner who might faint, or who might require assistance, and the old scaffold has been done away with and an entirely new one, level with the ground, erected, the floor being similar to a cellar flap, and when the drop falls the culprit is almost entirely hidden from view. While the executioner was placing the cap over the prisoner's face he asked him not to put it too much over his mouth, and in a very few seconds all was ready, and the drop fell. The rope appeared to be of extra length, for after the platform had been dropped nothing was visible but a portion of the rope, and the body of the culprit was entirely hidden from view. The prisoner was a tall fine man, and he appeared to struggle for two or three minutes before life was extinct. At the moment of execution a black flag was hoisted at the entrance of the gaol, and the usual certificate was signed by the sheriffs, the governor and the surgeon of the prison, notifying that the sentence of the law had been duly executed. A coroner's inquest was afterwards held on the body in conformity with the provisions of the Act of Parliament.

87 January 6 1875

West Riding Christmas Sessions

EIGHT MONTHS IMPRISONMENT Thomas Stokes (24) boatman, stealing a cash box and £18, the property of William George Dunstan, from a vessel at Stanley, on the 7th December.

88 January 29 1875

A BOATMAN DROWNED AT LEEDS Yesterday morning a boatman named **Robert Taylor**, aged twenty two, who resided at Barnsley, fell off a barge at Messrs Wiles and Crossley's Wharf, Sovereign Street, Leeds, into the River Aire, and was drowned. The body was shortly afterwards recovered.

89 March 29 1875

West Riding Spring Sessions

ROBBERY FROM THE PERSON AT LEEDS Frank Hannanby (20), sawyer, was indicted for assaulting **Joseph Riley** and stealing from his person a sealskin cap, his property, at Leeds on the

20th December. Mr Gane was for the prosecution. Riley is a boatman, and on the night in question he and his brother-in-law, Taylor, went on shore, and as they were wandering about in the neighbourhood of Millgarth Street, Riley was accosted by the prisoner, who called him a foul name and then challenged him to fight. Prosecutor declined the invitation, but at once and without the slightest provocation, prisoner hit him and knocked him down. The prosecutor's sealskin cap fell off, and Taylor, the brother-in-law, observed prisoner take it up, and make off with his plunder. Guilty. Eighteen calendar months.

90 April 20 1875

A FATAL LOVERS' QUARREL At the Hanley Police Court, yesterday, a boatman named **Chandler** was charged with the manslaughter, at Milton, of a widow named Eliza Mellor, to whom he had been paying his addresses, but with whom he had recently quarrelled. Death resulted apparently from injuries inflicted by a violent blow in the face. Prisoner, who admitted giving the deceased a slight smack, was remanded for a week.

91 July 9 1875

West Riding Court

UNPROVOKED ASSAULTS **Charles Thompson**, a canal boatman, was summoned for assaulting two men on the canal bridge at Saltaire on Monday last. George Newsham, one of the complainants, said he was standing on Saltaire Bridge about one o'clock on the day in question, when the defendant rushed at him and without saying a word knocked him down and kicked him. The defendant then went away and began assaulting another person. Samuel Jowett, the other complainant, corroborated the evidence of the former witness, and stated that after the defendant had left Newsham, he went a yard or two further and struck him (complainant) a severe blow on the face, knocked him down, and "pawed" him in the ribs. Neither of the complainants had seen defendant before, nor had they given him the slightest provocation. P C S Rolfe deposed that he was on duty near Saltaire Bridge when the assault was committed. He took defendant's name and address, and was going away, when he heard a noise behind him. On looking back he saw defendant assaulting Newsham a second time. The defendant appeared to have had some liquor. He was committed to prison for four months with hard labour.

92 July 17 1875

FACTORY ACTS COMMISSION The Rev Dr Ball, vicar of Goole, gave an account of the families of the boatmen working on the canal of the Aire and Calder Navigation Company between Leeds and Goole. The boatmen who navigated the boats generally took their wives and children with them on their trips, and consequently there was great difficulty in getting these children to attend school. Many of them were, in fact, receiving no education whatever. The boatmen's wages would be about 28s a week. He did not see how it would be possible to prevent the wives and families of the boatmen from going with them, and he could not, therefore, see how to get out of the difficulty. The children were at home part of the year and in bad seasons, and then they might be compelled to go to school, but when they were on the trips he did not see how anything could be done. The Chairman : Could not some system be adopted, if compulsion by the Factory Acts or otherwise was to be put in force, by which children might be boarded with their relations while the parent was on his trips? Witness : That is the only suggestion which is practicable at all, and yet it would lead to the temptation, on the part of those relations, to take charge of more children than they had accommodation for. He did not see the way to any action in the matter, unless some special law were passed to deal with it.

93 October 16 1875

THE DEATH FROM DROWNING IN THE CANAL An inquest was held at the Fox and Goose Inn, Bradford, before Mr Thomas Taylor, coroner, on the body of Luke Knowles (24), carter. **Thomas Knowles**, of Micklethwaite Lane Bottom, near Bingley, canal boatman, stated that the deceased was his uncle. They had been employed for some time conveying stones between

Bradford and Skipton. Deceased had charge of a horse, and witness looked after the boat, which was the property of deceased's father, at Micklethwaite Lane Bottom. About twenty minutes to four o'clock on Thursday afternoon witness and deceased arrived at the Bradford basin with the boat. About half past six o'clock witness saw deceased take some hay and corn from the boat and proceed with it along the towing path in the direction of the stables at the Spinkwell Locks, where the horse had been taken. A short time afterwards the lockman and a boatman came alongside witness's boat and asked him if his mate was aboard, and when he replied in the negative, they said he had better go with them, as deceased had left his coat in the stable and had never given the horse any corn nor unharnessed it. They feared he had fallen into the lock, and said the water had better be let off. Witness went with them, and when the water had been drawn off the men exclaimed, "He is here" and witness saw a smock and something that he could not distinguish at the bottom. A policeman was then sent for. **Benjamin Simpson**, lock-keeper and engine tender in the employ of the Bradford Canal Company, and residing at the Spinkwell Locks, stated that the deceased came to him about seven o'clock, and wanted a match to light the candle in the stable. About a quarter of an hour afterwards witness went into the stable, and found the candle burning, but the deceased was nowhere to be seen. Witness went back, and in a short time a boatman known by the cognomen of "Tanner Dick" asked him whether he had seen the deceased. After going together to the boat in search of deceased, they drew off the lock, which had about 17ft or 18ft of water in at the time. Having done this, witness could not see anything, so he went down with a coal rake, and found the body of the deceased. There was also the "nose-tin" which deceased had taken with him to draw water with. A policeman was sent for, and the body was removed. By a juryman : Before the lock was drawn off, the water would be about a foot from the top. Police-constable Mark Noble said he saw the body taken out of the lock, and had it removed to the dead house at the Bradford Infirmary. On searching the clothes, he found £1 4s 2d in money, a comb, knife and other articles. There was some froth about the nose, and the deceased had a scratch over one of the eyes, and blood was slightly oozing from it. After hearing further evidence, a verdict was returned to the effect that the deceased had been drowned by accidentally falling into the canal.

94 November 1 1875

ALLEGED THEFT OF COAL AT WINDHILL **Edmund Hilles**, boatman, was charged with having, on Saturday last, stolen 1 1/2cwt of coal, the property of **Mr N A Jowett**. It appears that the prisoner was mate on one of Mr Jowett's boats. He lived at Windhill, near the bridge, and while the boat was passing he threw off a quantity of coal, which was afterwards taken away by a woman with whom he lived. He pleaded, in defence, that out of the overweight the boatmen were allowed to take some coal; and it was shown that in this case the coal had been removed with the consent of **Isaac Illingworth**, the skipper of the boat. Illingworth was ordered to be taken into custody, and the case was adjourned till Thursday to allow an investigation to be made whether a practice such as the prisoner mentioned existed amongst boat owners. It had been denied by Mr Jowett's clerk.

95 November 30 1875

Margaret Pignall, the wife of a Liverpool boatman, was charged at the police court in that town yesterday with wilful neglect of her child, an infant of three months. About a month ago the police found the child almost nude, lying on some dirty bedding in a room destitute of furniture, and the prisoner was apprehended shortly afterwards in a neighbour's house in a state of intoxication. The child was in a dangerous state for some time, its weight when found by the police being only about six pounds, or about half the weight of an average child of that age. In defence, the prisoner said she gave the child "too much to eat". The magistrates strongly condemned the unnatural conduct of the woman and sentenced her to five months imprisonment.

96 December 15 1875

At the Central Criminal Court on Monday, **Abel Jones**, a canal boatman, was convicted of attempting to drown **Edward Hibbert**, the lock-keeper at the City Road Lock of the Regents Canal.

Late at night, the prisoner attempted to take his barge through the lock against the orders of the lock-keeper, and when remonstrated with, threw a rope around the man's neck and caused him to fall into the water. The prisoner was sentenced to eighteen months hard labour.

97 December 28 1875

Yesterday, the inquest on the body of Mary Cawthray, who was drowned in the Bradford Canal at Windhill on Saturday night, was held. The evidence showed that the deceased was seen with a boatman named **Jonathan Tillotson**, both of them being the worse for liquor. An hour afterwards a man named Shaw saw the woman struggling in the water, but no assistance was forthcoming until it was too late. Tillotson himself said that he was with the woman on the canal boat, and he fell into the water, but did not know that the woman had done so too. The jury returned an open verdict. Tillotson was yesterday brought before the West Riding magistrates, at Bradford, on a charge of causing the woman's death, and remanded.

98 December 28 1875

THE SUSPICIOUS DEATH AT WINDHILL – THE INQUEST An inquest on the body of Mrs Mary Cawthray, who met her death by drowning in the Bradford Canal at Windhill on Saturday night, was held yesterday morning at the Queen's Hotel, Windhill, before Mr Thomas Taylor, Coroner. Mr Robinson (Messrs Berry and Robinson, Bradford) was present during the latter part of the enquiry to watch the case on behalf of **Jonathan Tillotson**, who was apprehended by the police on Saturday night on the charge of causing the woman's death. The following evidence was taken :- Jane Phillips said she was a widow, and resided in Helen Street, Saltaire. The deceased, Mary Cawthray, was her sister. She was about forty four years of age. Witness last saw her about two months ago, when she left her at the Saltaire Railway Station. Deceased was going to a situation as servant at the Hare and Hounds Inn, Keighley. Witness had not seen her alive since. Deceased brought her boxes to witness's house on Friday last, but witness did not see her, as she was at work in the mill. Witness did not know whether deceased had a purse or not. She could not say where the deceased spent Friday night. Witness sat up to three o'clock on Saturday morning waiting for her to come. Deceased had been at witness's house before for two or three days before she went to her situation at Keighley. Witness had seen the deceased the worse for liquor on several occasions since her husband's death, but not since she got her situation at Keighley. She was taken to Clayton Workhouse to try to reform her from her habit of intemperance.

Robert Lee said he lived at Lane Bottom, Windhill, and was a labourer. He assisted Mr Wilkinson of the Queen's Hotel as assistant waiter in the vaults. He saw the deceased about nine o'clock on the night of Christmas Day. That was the first time he saw the deceased. A man whom he knew by sight, and who was called Jonathan, was with her. They came in together. Witness thought both of them were rather fresh. The man asked for a bottle of ginger beer and a glass of beer, but they got a bottle of ginger beer apiece. Witness did not supply them, but saw the ginger beer in their glasses. He did not see them sit down, but they drank it off as they stood, and went out together. They were very quiet when they were in the vaults. They were only in about five minutes. At about half past ten o'clock the body of the deceased was brought to the house. Witness saw the body and recognised it as that of the woman who had been in the vaults at nine o'clock. At about twenty minutes to twelve o'clock witness went along with Inspector Dixon to the house where "Jonathan" lived at Shipley. He there saw Jonathan, who was just getting up out of bed. When they got to the door of the house they had to knock for admission, and they had to wait a little time before they saw the man. Jonathan did not open the door himself. Witness was called upstairs after a short time and saw the man. Witness could not tell whether he was the worse for liquor then or not. Witness recognised the man as the one who was in the vaults with the deceased at nine o'clock.

George Dixon said he lived at Shipley, and was an Inspector of the West Riding constabulary. He did not know the deceased. He first heard of her death at about ten o'clock on Saturday night, when he was in Shipley market place. He went towards the place and saw some men conveying the body to the Queen's Head on a plank. Police-constables Nicholl and McDonald were assisting. Witness

went along with the last witness to the house where Jonathan Tillotson lived, in Hargreaves Street. He knocked at the door, and an elderly woman, whom Tillotson called mother, opened it. Tillotson was in bed, asleep upstairs, and witness went up and called him. Witness then looked round the house and found a purse (produced) empty on the oven downstairs. Witness told prisoner that he would know what he (the inspector) had come about, no doubt; and witness did not charge Tillotson till they got to the police office. The purse was damp. Witness also found 8s 2d in silver and copper and a knife lying on the table near the kitchen range. The money appeared to be wet. The knife did not seem to be wet at all. Witness then went into the cellar, where he found a pair of trousers, coat, vest, shirt and flannel very wet and hanging on a clothes horse. A pair of boots were on the hearth, but witness did not take charge of them. The cellar where the clothes were was not a living room at all. Witness then took Tillotson to the lock up at Shipley. Tillotson did not appear to be the worse for liquor; he might have had some drink, but he was not fresh. He walked quickly and steadily. On his way to the lock up Tillotson said that Mrs Cawthray had told him she had nowhere to sleep, and he was taking her on board the boat to pass the night with her. When they got to the police station witness charged Tillotson with throwing Mrs Cawthray into the canal at Windhill and thereby causing her death. In answer to the charge the prisoner said, "I did not throw her in. I was walking along the side of the boat and I fell in, and I do not know whether she fell in or not". Witness then showed the prisoner a "billycock" hat that was produced by P C McDonald. Prisoner examined it and then said, "It is my hat". The hat was wet. Before they left Tillotson's house his mother said she had taken the money and the purse and the knife out of the prisoner's pocket when he came in wet. The purse had not been identified as belonging to the prisoner. A purse had been found in the jacket pocket of the deceased. The prisoner said he was going with one of the boats which were moored in the canal. When witness first went into the house the prisoner's mother said it was a pure accident; that the prisoner had told her that he had been with Mrs Cawthray in the boat, and that they had both fallen into the water.

Mr John Treherne said he lived at Windhill, and was a surgeon. He did not know the deceased. He first saw the body on the canal barge, at about ten o'clock on Saturday night. The boat was loaded, and the body was laid on the coal. Life was extinct, and there was no superficial warmth at all. Witness had since examined the body externally. The body was that of a stout woman and appeared to have been in a healthy condition. On the left knee there was an abrasion and contusion and there were two other slight contusions, one on the left thigh, a very slight one, and the other, also very slight, on the right shin. The abrasion on the left knee might have been caused in taking the body out of the water; it was so slight that witness could not tell whether it had been caused before or after death. There were no other appearances on the body except those of an ordinary case of drowning.

Samuel Shaw said he lived at Dock Field, Windhill, and was formerly a chapel-keeper. Witness did not know the deceased or the prisoner Tillotson. On Saturday night witness left John Holmes' butcher's shop, Windhill, between nine and a quarter past, and was going home. When he got to the footbridge which crossed the canal just over the lock, he heard two people talking, but he could not say that they were quarrelling. From the sound of the voices he thought the persons talking were on the boat. Witness did not see anybody, and turned down Dock Lane, on the other side of the canal from the towing path. When he had gone about ten yards he heard someone plunge into the canal. It seemed to be only a single plunge. Witness asked, "What are you doing there?" No one answered, and witness shouted again, and still no one answered him, but he heard the person who was in the water say, "Oh dear!" Witness could then see a woman in the water, and she seemed to get hold of the boat side with her hands. As soon as the woman had got her breath she cried out "Help!" Witness only heard her say it once. After she had called out witness heard a man's voice also call out "Help!" The man seemed from the sound of his voice to be on the Dock Road side of the canal. Witness never saw the man. Witness then went round the house and on to the top of the plank bridge which went over the lock, and the woman then seemed to have fallen back into the water. A young lad named Joseph Drake came down, and witness told him to go for help. Witness remained on the bridge till assistance arrived. Two men came and witness asked them to help, but

they said they were worse for drink. Witness remained on the bridge until P C McDonald came, and until the body was got out. Witness saw the woman in the water all the time, and no one touched her till the policeman got hold of her. The woman did not sink at all, so far as he saw. When witness got on to the footbridge the woman had ceased to call out altogether. She was in the water almost close to the boat side and beyond reach from the Dock Road side of the canal. The boat was standing still at the time. P C McDonald went down to the boat by the toeing path side and got hold of the woman. He called for someone to help him, and another man then got into the boat and the two dragged the body on to the top of the coals. The night was dark and there were no lamps about. By Mr Robinson : The night was fair but dark; he could see objects when he had been out a bit. When he first heard the splash he was about ten yards from the boat. He at once looked towards the place where the splash came from, but it was a little time before he saw the woman. It seemed from the splashing he heard in the water that she was plunging backwards and forwards. It was four or five minutes after the splash before witness heard the woman cry for help, and she had then hold of the boat. On the Dock Road side of the canal there was a wall, and the water was very deep by the wall. The woman was in the water between the boat and the wall. There were two boats moored abreast, and the boat of which the woman had hold was the one nearest the Dock Road side. The nearest way to get off the boat would be to pass over the second boat into the towing path at the other side of the canal. Witness could not see the man who called out for help and concluded that he was drowning too. When the woman was got out of the water, witness saw a man's hat floating on the surface, about 2 ft from the place where the woman had been. When the man called out for help witness heard him say another word but he could not tell what it was. It sounded like, "Help, b----r". From the direction from which the sound of the man's voice came, witness thought he was not in the water at all.

Joseph Drake said he lived in Hall Lane, Shipley, and was a grocer's assistant. He did not know either the deceased or Tillotson. On Saturday night witness was near the stone bridge at the junction of the Bradford with the Leeds and Liverpool canal, when he heard someone cry, "Help!" It was between half past nine and a quarter to ten o'clock, and witness was coming along the towing path with his mother. The cry he heard was a loud one, and appeared to be a woman's voice first, but almost at the same time he heard a man's voice also calling, "Help!" Witness ran in the direction where the cries came from, and saw Shaw on the footbridge. Witness then saw the woman in the water, very near the boat and quite still. Witness then went for assistance and fetched P C McDonald. By Mr Robinson : Witness was about fifty yards from the boat when he heard the cries. He was just coming over the stone bridge. Several jurymen said that the distance was more than a hundred yards. Witness, continuing, said he did not hear any plunge.

Alexander McDonald said he lived at No 5 Briggate, Windhill, and was a constable in the West Riding Constabulary. He did not know either the deceased or Tillotson. About ten minutes to ten o'clock on Saturday night he was at his station, when Drake came to him and told him there was a woman in the canal. Witness went to the canal and saw the woman in the water, floating face upwards, with her feet towards the boat. Witness pulled her out into the boat. She was quite dead, and never moved. The doctor came in about ten minutes from the time that the body was taken out. The body was then removed to the Queen's Hotel. Witness did not see Tillotson at all.

Mary Jane Brook said she was a single woman and lived at the Queen's Hotel as barmaid. She did not know the deceased, but had seen Tillotson before and knew him by sight, although she did not know his name. About nine o'clock on Saturday night last Tillotson and the deceased came in together, and Tillotson asked for a glass of beer and a bottle of ginger beer. Witness said to the man that she thought he had had enough. The man replied that she was mistaken and that nothing ailed him. Witness, however, refused to fill him any beer, and he had a bottle of ginger beer along with the woman. Witness thought the deceased also had had some drink. Tillotson paid for the two bottles of ginger beer. Witness saw the body of the deceased when it was brought to the house, and recognised it as that of the woman who had been with Tillotson.

Alice Boyle said she was the wife of Connell Boyle, and lived at 82 Kirkgate, Shipley. Her husband was a shoemaker. Witness had known the deceased twelve years. About three months

since deceased came to witness and said she had nowhere to go, and witness gave her a night's lodging. Witness had not seen her since. She had laid out the body of the deceased. In the deceased's pockets she found 2 1/2d in copper, eight pawn tickets and a watch key.

Betty Tillotson said she was a widow and lived in Hargreaves Street, Shipley. Jonathan Tillotson was her son and lived with her. On Christmas Day Jonathan went out about twelve o'clock at noon with some other men, and witness did not see him again until a little after ten o'clock at night. When he came he fell against the door. Witness asked who it was and he said, "Open the door". When he came in and witness saw what a state he was in she asked him whatever he had been doing to get into the water. He was tipsy, and his clothes were dripping wet. He looked very white, and was trembling all over. Witness got his clothes off as well as she could and sent him upstairs to bed, and then took his clothes into the cellar. In his jacket pocket was a bottle of whisky. He said, "I was taking Cawthray's wife to the boat to sleep with her, and I slipped in. I don't know whether she fell in or not, but I hope she did not. I have only just escaped. I screamed for help, but nobody came". Witness had never heard of his being with Mrs Cawthray before, although she had lived in the neighbourhood for some years previously. By Mr Robinson : Her son was formerly a cart driver, but was now a boatman. The boat that was moored at the canal was in charge of witness's son in law.

This was all the evidence that was offered.

The Coroner said it was a question for the jury to consider whether they thought it was shown that anybody was criminally liable for the death of the deceased. It appeared that she had been last seen at the Queen's Hotel with a man who was considered by the barmaid to be so intoxicated that she would not supply him with any more drink. The two had then apparently gone to the boat in the canal. The difficulty was, how did she get into the water? Shaw told them that he heard voices talking, though not angrily, and then he heard a splash. Under these circumstances unless something very unlikely had happened, and unless there was some reason, they could not say that the man and woman had been quarrelling. The deceased was next seen in the water, and Shaw and the youth Drake heard both the woman and a man cry out for help. The thing that seemed inexplicable was that the man should have gone away without seeing or caring whether the woman was in the water or not. There was no doubt Tillotson when he reached home was very drunk and was suffering from the shock of having been in the water. Whether he heard somebody about and ran away, with an idea of taking care of himself or not he did not know. At any rate he did not see evidence to bring home to anyone criminal conduct; the woman had not been robbed or anything of that sort. Whether the man slipped into the water, or the deceased slipped in trying to help him out, or whether both of them fell in together, or whether the man pulled the woman in in attempting to save himself from falling, they could not know. It was a question for them whether they thought there was anyone else who could throw a light on the subject; or whether they could not come to the conclusion on the evidence that had been offered, that the woman had contributed to her own death by going on a dark night into such a dangerous place, while under the influence of drink.

The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of "Found drowned with no evidence to show how she got into the water".

THE PRISONER BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES

At the West Riding Court, Bradford, yesterday, before Colonel Pollard and Mr Joshua Pollard, Jonathan Tillotson, cart driver of Shipley was brought up in custody charged with causing the death of Mary Cawthray. Mr S L Robinson (Berry and Robinson) appeared for the prisoner. The court was crowded.

Superintendent Ball stated that the prisoner was charged with causing the death of Mary Cawthray at Windhill on the 25th instant, either by throwing her into the canal, or of being the means of her getting into the canal and so being drowned. It seemed that the unfortunate woman was a widow belonging to Shipley or Saltaire, and had been in service at Keighley for some time. She went to Saltaire on Friday last, and on Saturday night she and the prisoner were seen drinking together. The last house where they were seen together was the Queen's Hotel, Windhill, which they left about nine o'clock. A man named Shaw was going along the canal bank about half past nine o'clock when

he heard some voices, and as far as he could judge they seemed to be those of two persons who were quarrelling with each other. Shaw heard a man's voice, but did not see the man. This was followed by a woman's scream, and then a plunge into the water. Shaw proceeded along the bank until he arrived at a place where some boats were moored, and then got onto a footbridge which crossed the canal at this place. He perceived a woman clinging on to the side of a boat, but she soon let go her hold, and fell back into the water. Shaw called out for assistance to some young men who were near the place, but they took little or no notice of him, and went away. He then sent for a policeman, and they got the body out of the water. It was found to be the corpse of the woman Cawthray. The prisoner's hat was also found in the water near the place and afterwards, when the prisoner was apprehended at his mother's house, his clothes were found to be wet. The inquest had been opened that morning, and he (Superintendent Ball) would have to ask for a remand until further investigation could be made, and the result of the inquest was known.

Mr Robinson said he would not oppose a remand.

Col Pollard : We need not call any evidence then.

The prisoner was remanded until Thursday next.