

LEICESTER CHRONICLE 1827 to 1855

1 January 6 1827

On Monday last, Hugh Stapleton, late porter at the shop of Mr Copeland, grocer, and John Goodliffe, fishmonger, were convicted of having, on the night of the 27th ult, wilfully thrown down two lamp posts in Scotgate belonging to the Gas Company, broken the lamps, and caused a wasteful escape of upwards of 2,000 cubic feet of gas. They were adjudged to pay the sum of £15 14s 6d, being three times the amount of the injury sustained by the company ; also to pay a penalty (mitigated) and the costs of the information. The same parties, and John Haselby jun, slater, were convicted under another information of breaking seven other gas lamps, and were adjudged to pay, for that offence, £10 14s ; and, at the same time, Stapleton, Goodliffe and Haselby, with **Samuel Bartholomew**, a boatman, were likewise convicted of breaking another gas lamp, and ordered to pay £4 18s 6d.

2 March 24 1827

Leicestershire Assizes

BOROUGH COURT Catherine Church stood indicted for stealing twelve pounds in half crown pieces, the property of **Peter James**, boatman, on the 10th of February last. It appeared that the prosecutor had gone to the prisoner's house in Garden Street, Belgrave Gate, about eleven o'clock at night, quite fresh in liquor ; that he had been allowed to sleep on a chair there ; that after sleeping in that situation some time, he was awoke by the unlocking of a door ; that then, missing his money, he procured the aid of a constable, by whose aid and that of Mr Owston, his purse and the greater part of his money was discovered concealed in different part of the prisoner's house. Being called upon for her defence, the prisoner said that the prosecutor, whom she had known for nine years, being very much in liquor, had begun to throw his purse about the house, when she had taken possession of it for safety. The prisoner being recalled, and contradicting her assertions, the jury found her guilty, and she was sentenced to be imprisoned six calendar months in the Borough Gaol. The prisoner is an Irish woman about 50 years of age, and in manners and appearance much resembling "Mrs Bullgrudery" in the play of John Bull. Her self possession was never once disturbed by the disgraceful situation in which she stood.

3 March 31 1827

Leicestershire Assizes

SATURDAY **John Bakewell** (a boatman) stood indicted on a charge of stealing hay belonging to Mrs Williamson of Rearsby. Mr Barnaby, for the prosecution, called two witnesses to establish his case, but it appearing on their cross-examination by Mr Humphrey, for the prisoner, that he had been taken up and afterwards set at liberty, and also that evidence against him was only slight, the jury found him not guilty.

4 July 7 1827

EXCHANGE, TUESDAY JULY 3 **Edward Rogers** was charged with assaulting John Abbey on Sunday ; and another boatman was charged with resisting the constables when they went to apprehend Rogers. The prosecutor was walking by the side of the canal, near St Mary's Mill, when the prisoner's boat was going through the lock. He asked the man at the helm if he might ride, to which he consented. The prosecutor then got into the boat, and sat down on the side of it. Shortly afterwards, Rogers went on board and said that there was more room on the towing-path than in the boat and, stooping down under the pretence of looking for something, caught hold of Abbey and threw him into the water. The canal, in that part, was fourteen feet deep. Abbey could not swim ; and, as the boat went on, and the men did not attempt to rescue him, he must have been drowned, but for a young man named Stringer in the next field who, being alarmed by his cries, came to his assistance and, plunging into the water, caught hold of him as he was on the point of drowning, and bore him to the side. Information was given to Godber ; but when he went to apprehend Rogers, the latter armed himself with a knife and swore that he would stab anyone who attempted to take him in to custody. The other prisoner said no one should take Rogers and, as their boat was then moored,

he cut the cable and sent her adrift. Godber then sent for assistance ; and J Hester and two other constables named Measures and Bleader were dispatched to his aid. Being called upon by Hester to surrender, Rogers reiterated his threats against anyone who should approach him. On this, Hester rushed upon him, and succeeded in wrenching the knife from him when, refusing to surrender, Bleader tripped up his heels. He, however, contrived to force himself into the cabin where, for some time, he defied the efforts of the constables ; but at length he was secured, as was the other prisoner. A great number of spectators had assembled near the spot, but such was the menacing attitude assumed by Rogers and a number of other boatmen, who appeared to take his part, brutal and cowardly as his conduct towards the prosecutor had been, none of them seemed disposed to render any assistance to the constables. The prisoners were committed for trial at the assizes.

5 July 14 1827

BOROUGH SESSIONS **George and Thomas Squires**, father and son, were indicted for assaulting Mr W Wright, grazier of Sysonby, on the 19th of May. The prosecutor said that happening to cross his fields on horseback on the day in question, he met two or three of his children crying, and saying that the boatmen had taken their fishing rods. On going to the defendants to request that they would return them, they refused to do so, on which he took hold of their horse, and was struck at several times by the younger defendant. In the meantime, some person in the boat threw the rods on the canal side, and he went his way. While attempting to mount his horse, however, the elder prisoner gave him a severe blow under the left ear, by which he fell to the ground stunned, and afterwards inflicted several other blows on his face and arms, by which he was much inconvenienced. During all this time, he never once struck either of the defendants ; intending, as he said, to punish them in another way. Mr John Whitchurch, surgeon, attended to the prisoner, and found him in a confused state of intellect, resulting from the effects of the severe blow under his ear. Mr Wright continued in this state for fourteen days. Another witness, named Topps, said that the elder defendant told him that when he observed the prosecutor shoot his hands and legs out from the effects of his blow, he thought he had done him, but that it was fortunate for him that it was not so! Mr Humfrey addressed the jury for the defendants, but they were found guilty, and the Chairman sentenced the elder prisoner to be imprisoned for four months, and the younger one to one month's imprisonment, with a fine of 1s each.

6 August 18 1827 **Leicestershire Assizes**

STEALING FROM A BOAT William Simpson and Henry Simpson were indicted for stealing a coat belonging to **William Clarke**, out of a boat in the parish of St Margaret. William Clarke (examined by Mr Goulburn) is a boatman and lives at Leicester. On the 4th of July last, he missed a green coat out of the cabin in a boat. He had seen it on the Monday. John Jeffery, a constable, saw the prisoners on the 4th of July in the afternoon. William Simpson had a green coat on. On the 10th, witness saw Henry, and asked him what had become of the coat, as he suspected it was stolen. Prisoner said his brother had pawned it, and that it was not stolen, but was left at his brother's lodgings.

7 August 18 1827

TOWN HALL, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 13 John Simons and William Simons were indicted for assaulting **George Baker**, in the parish of St Mary, on the 24th of February ; and putting him in bodily fear, and stealing from his person various articles, belonging to **Edward Thompson**. Edward Thompson, examined by Mr Goulburn : Witness is a boatman, and resides in Northamptonshire. On the 19th of February, he had the care of a boat, which he left in the charge of George Baker, in the West Lock. Witness left a jacket, a piece of velveteen and other articles in the cabin, which he locked and took the key. When he returned on the Tuesday week after, he found the door of the cabin broken open, and the things gone from the cupboard. George Baker, a boatman, said he was left in charge of the boat, which was frozen up, on the day named. On the 24th, about twelve o'clock at night, he was asleep on board, but was awoken by a noise, when he jumped up and

saw a man in the boat. He asked him what he wanted, but he made no answer. The man went along the boat, into the half deck, and then into Thompson's cabin. He then jumped off the boat, and two men, who had their faces blacked, came on, and beat the witness on the head, and tried to keep him in his cabin, which is close to Thompson's. They then tried to throw him into the canal, but he caught hold of the door, when they struck his fingers. They beat witness much, and crushed him against the side of the cabin, which prevented him calling out. There were four men in all, none of whom he knew. The two others took the things out of the cupboard, and then they all went towards Linthwaite's lock. Witness went to the Royal Oak and got two men to pursue them. Witness did not pursue, because he was frightened. Thomas Wilkins said he was in company with the prisoners, and a man named Hewell, on the 24th of February at the Windmill public house. A proposition was made by Hewell to steal a rope out of Thompson's boat and witness and the rest agreed to go. Witness went first into the boat, walked from the stern to the head, and jumped ashore. Witness went on board again, followed by John Simons, and got into the cabin. Baker then jumped up, and asked if they wanted a lump of coal. John Simons had a "tussle" with him, and struck him on the head, with the slide of the cabin. Hewell and William Simons stood on the bank all the time. Witness pushed Baker into his cabin, while John Simons went into the other cabin and brought out the clothes, which he gave to his brother and Hewell. The others ran away, and witness followed them, and caught them at the New Mill. They went together to the bottom of Wharf Street, where they parted the clothes. John Simons had a pair of breeches, and a pair of half boots and stockings ; William had a velveteen jacket and two waistcoats ; witness had a piece of velveteen, and Hewell had two shirts. On Monday, witness saw the prisoners and Hewell at the public wharf. William Simons said he had found a silk handkerchief in the pocket of the breeches which his brother had. J Bateman saw the prisoners William and "Topsy" (Hewell) on the Saturday, about ten at night in the Windmill. They were drinking and went away together. George Owston, high constable, searched John Simons on the 31st of March, a day or two after he was apprehended, and took the boots which he produced off his feet. E Thompson identified the boots. Daniel Millington, a labourer, knows the prisoner William Simons, and saw him on the 10th of March about mid day at the Ten Bells. The prisoner called witness out, and asked him if he would go on an errand for him. He consented, and the prisoner took witness to his mother's house, and left him outside while he went in. He came out again in about ten minutes, with a bundle, which he carried up Churchgate, and then asked witness to pawn it. It was a waistcoat tied in a silk handkerchief. Witness took them to Mr Carryers, and afterwards to Mr Jaques's, where he pawned them in his own name for 4s. He gave the prisoner the ticket and money. Thomas Jaques said the last witness pawned, at his shop, a waistcoat and silk handkerchief, which he delivered to Fox, the constable. Fox produced them, and they were identified by Thompson. The Judge said the capital charge had not been made out, as the articles were not stolen from the person. The jury, therefore, returned a verdict of "Guilty of larceny" and the prisoners were sentenced to be transported for seven years.

8 October 13 1827

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE INTELLIGENCE Also last week, one of Messrs Pickford and Co's boatmen was fined £5 for pushing by certain coal boats, and depriving them of their turn in passing through one of the locks on the Loughborough Canal, which is a serious hindrance to the boats kept waiting, as the water has not been so low in the memory of man.

9 January 5 1828

CAUTION TO BOATMEN **Robert Stocks** of Retford, with a cargo of coals for sale at Sleaford, lately gave a false account of his lading to the collector of the tolls on the Sleaford Navigation. The case being clearly proved before the magistrates, he was convicted in the penalty of £5 and costs.

10 January 26 1828

On the 21st instant, an inquest was held at Ratcliffe-upon-Soar, Nottinghamshire, on the body of **Richard Hickling**, a boatman. The deceased was in the employ of Mr Thomas Pollard of

Kegworth, and on the 7th of December last, was by himself in a narrow boat, appearing to be moving the boat down the river Soar from the stone bridge to the wooden bridge at the bottom of the new side cut, and was missing from that time to the 19th instant, when the body was found lodged upon land by the late flood, in a meadow, called Mason Meadow, in the parish of Ratcliffe. No evidence appeared to show in what manner he was drowned. Verdict, "Found drowned".

11 April 19 1828

COUNTY SESSIONS **John Conquest** and **William Spriggs** (two boatmen) were indicted for an assault on William Corby at Market Harborough. The prosecutor keeps the Green Dragon at Harborough. The prisoners went to his house about half past ten on the night of the 12th of April. The door was locked, but they kicked at it so violently that the prosecutor at last opened it, when Conquest rushed in and knocked him down, and Spriggs followed and kicked the prosecutor when he was on the ground. They then went into the house, struck a person who was there, and threw down a table which had a number of glasses and jugs upon it. They were at length taken into custody. The jury found them guilty, and they were sentenced to be imprisoned in the House of Correction for one month, and to be fined 1s.

12 May 3 1828

At Shardlow last Monday evening, two boatmen, named **Robert Hodgkinson** and **John Roberts**, having quarrelled, were excited to fight, and soon after the commencement of the battle, Roberts received a blow which proved fatal to him. He was supported to the knee of a man who was acting as his second : he seemed very faint, his head sank on his shoulder, and he died. On Wednesday, the inquest was held before Mr C Bateman on view of the body, and a verdict of manslaughter was returned against Hodgkinson, who has accordingly been committed for trial.

13 August 9 1828

Leicestershire Assizes

NISI PRIUS COURT

JOHNSON v BATES Mr Clarke jun (with whom was Mr Goulburn) stated that this cause was also undefended, and was an action in trover brought by **Henry Johnson**, the plaintiff, who is a boatman residing at Castle Donington, to recover possession of a boat, and a considerable quantity of articles used in navigating the said boat, from Mary Bates, the defendant, who resides at Sawley in Derbyshire. The boat was left by the plaintiff moored near Cavendish Bridge one night at the latter end of April last, and before morning the defendant had employed men to take it away. She refused to give it up, and this action was brought to recover the boat and chattels. They were stated by a witness to be worth £64, for which a verdict was returned for the plaintiff.

14 September 6 1828

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE REPORT – THURSDAY **Mrs Smith** complained that the officer of Castle Donington refused to give her sufficient relief. She said she was the wife of **Richard Smith**, boatman ; she had received 1s 6d a week for herself and child, and could earn from 3s to 3s 6d a week ; that her husband was in prison and she had been paying his debts by instalments, but could not do with her allowance. The Magistrates said that she could have no claim at all while she was paying her husband's debts. The overseer stated that she was very abusive, and said she would have 2s. The Magistrates replied that no allowance would be given her.

15 September 20 1828

EXCHANGE, TUESDAY A boatman applied to the Magistrates, stating that Mr Sharpless had refused to give him relief for his wife, who was lately confined and not sufficiently provided for. **Mr Barlow** stated that the complainant went with a boat belonging to him, and that he paid him one pound a week ; that he gave him eleven pounds for expenses &c which the complainant said he had lost ; but he was told that he had been with some girls at Newark, where he spent the money. The Mayor said he was not a fit subject for relief, and dismissed the application.

16 November 8 1828

On the 12th ult, some boatmen were observed by Fox, a constable, about eleven o'clock in the evening in Blue Boar Lane, with a bag containing something apparently very heavy, which they were supposed to have brought from Messrs Pickford and Co's wharf. Having suspicion that they had stolen their load, he enquired what the contents were, when they told him that it was something they were taking to the bakehouse. He insisted in knowing the fact, and on examination it turned out to be about nine gallons of red port, which it is supposed they had taken out of some casks in a boat. He took one of them into custody, and the other escaped.

17 November 15 1828

Samuel Breedon was charged with assaulting a person named **Whitcroft**, who stated that when he was going along Churchgate, Loughborough on Monday night, the defendant came up and struck him, and that no words had previously passed between them. The defendant said that when he was returning from his work he saw the complainant abusing some women, and on interfering in their behalf, he received a blow from the complainant, when he struck him in return. It appearing that the complainant had acted in a very outrageous manner, the case was dismissed, and the complainant ordered to pay the costs.

Whitcroft was then charged with assaulting a person named Wragg in Swan Street. The defendant, who is a boatman, with several of his fraternity, it appeared, had been drinking, and was having what they termed a "sprey" and fixed upon the complainant as their object of abuse. The complainant said that finding the defendant and his companions were in search of him, he endeavoured to elude their vigilance by hiding himself under a wall. The parties had passed by him once, but one of them espied him, when he was dragged out and treated in a most brutal and ferocious manner ; he was sure defendant was one of the gang. His hat, which he lately gave twelve shilling for, was also taken away, and has since been found pawned. The defendant admitted being there, but denied the charge of assaulting him, when Mr Robins stated that about eleven o'clock on the evening in question, when he was fastening his house door, a man came up and requested to be admitted, but he refused his request. He went upstairs, and on hearing the complainant calling out murder, he opened the chamber window, and seeing several persons abusing him, he asked if they were going to kill the man. They then went away, when the complainant related his story to him. He (witness) was sure the complainant was the man who was abused. The defendant was ordered to pay £1 and all expenses, or be committed to prison one month.

18 December 27 1828

EXCHANGE, TUESDAY A boatman was brought up charged with offering a bad half sovereign to Mrs Ann Hamstead, an inhabitant of Goddard's Yard. The defendant said that he went to the complainant's house, and before he came away, he gave her a good half sovereign to change, and not the one in question. Mrs Hamstead said that she gave the man 8s towards the change, being all she had, and wished to know if she was not to have that returned. The Magistrates considering that she intended to defraud the man, dismissed the case, and ordered her to pay the expenses. Mrs Hamstead left the room loudly expressing her dissatisfaction at the Magistrates' decision.

19 February 7 1829

On Saturday, three boatmen were convicted at Loughborough of an assault on Mr and Mrs Bexon, and Mrs Clarke ; **George Rossel** paid 21s ; **Savidge** 26s and **William Rossel** 14s.

On Wednesday, 21 boatmen, out of employ, drew a waggon from Shardlow to Loughborough (twelve miles) the weight of which was at least three tons. A laborious but honest mode of obtaining food.

20 February 21 1829

EXCHANGE, TUESDAY **Joseph Bramwell**, a boatman, was charged with leaving his wife and family burdensome to St Margaret's parish. The defendant, a stout good looking man, about three

times the size of his “better” half, solid measure, stated that he was willing to take care of his little girl, but not his wife, assigning as a reason that she was much addicted to those familiarities with other men which are so derogatory to female dignity, and so destructive to connubial felicity. The defendant was sent out to make arrangements with the parish officer.

21 March 21 1829

MARLBOROUGH STREET POLICE OFFICE, LONDON – CHARGE OF RAPE A simple looking country girl named Matilda Parker, about twenty two years of age, complained on Wednesday of a most outrageous assault having been made upon her, by the Captain of one of Pickford's canal boats and one of his men. She stated that on Friday she left her parents house at Bromley, Staffordshire, to visit an aunt residing at Courton (Colton?) Her road was along the side of the canal, and she had not proceeded far before she was overtaken by a canal boat, the Captain of which invited her on board, and he promised to convey her to Courton, and she therefore went on board into the cabin. She had been there but a short time, when the Captain proceeded to take liberties with her. She called out, “Murder”, and one of the Captain's men came into the cabin, but refused to render her any assistance. The Captain then threw her on a bed and violated her person, and his companion treated her in the same manner. On the following day, she attempted to jump from deck on shore, when the fellows tore her gown in pulling her back, and the Captain beat her severely. On Monday night, when within a few miles of Paddington, the Captain renewed his ill treatment. She hastened on deck as soon as she got from his grasp, and called out for assistance, and the villain then knocked her down into the cabin. At Paddington, he turned her ashore. Mr Deer enquired if none of the men belonging to the boat offered to interfere in her behalf. The girl replied that, on hearing her cries, they came into the cabin, but took no notice of the conduct of her assailants. Mr Mangle, the assistant overseer of St Giles's, said that unfortunately such transactions daily occurred in the canal boats. Every unprotected female who travelled by them was sure to meet with the same treatment ; and the boatmen were sworn to protect each other. The Magistrates granted warrants against the two fellows ; and in the meantime, the unfortunate girl was directed to be taken care of at the workhouse.

22 March 28 1829

A boy about five years of age, named **Brown**, son of a boatman, was drowned in the North lock on Monday night. He is supposed to have accidentally fallen in the water owing to the darkness of the night, while on his way to Mr Hitchcock's corn mill.

On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the Horse and Jockey, Northgate Street, in this town, before Mr Alderman Yates, coroner, on view of the body. It appeared, on evidence, that the mother of the deceased, who resides by the side of the canal, sent the child for a pennyworth of milk, to Mr Hitchcock's, a short distance on the opposite side of the canal, about five o'clock on the preceding evening. It being quite dark, and not returning in time, she went to inquire for him, but was informed that the child had not been there ; lights being procured, a search was made, and the can which he took for the milk was seen floating in the canal, which was immediately dragged, and the body was found in about half an hour afterwards. Verdict : “Accidental death”.

23 May 2 1829

At Loughborough, on Monday week, Eliza Jennings and Lydia Davis were committed for one month to the county house of correction, having picked the pocket of **Whitcroft**, (an amorous boatman, who was in close conversation with the Cyprians) of £16, all of which, except £1, they restored to him.

24 August 15 1829

EXCHANGE, TUESDAY **Isaac Holden**, a boatman, appeared to answer the complaint of Mr Busswell, who stated that the defendant, in company with two females, was making a great disturbance near the West Bridge, by which a mob had assembled, and also refused to let him shut

the door that opens towards the hauling path, and was very abusive.

The defendant, on being asked what he had to say in answer to this charge, replied : “What I mean to say for myself is this – that I go with Pickford's boat, and have always had a road over the bridge”.

Magistrates : Was you sober at the time Mr Buswell complains that you abused him?

“Yes, your worships, as sober as I am at this moment”, exclaimed he, reeling, with his head reclined like a weeping willow.

Magistrates : Very likely.

Defendant (raising his head) : Arn't I to have a road then, through that door?

Magistrates : No ; you ought to go under the bridge.

Defendant : Thank you – thank you. Am I to have a road on the turnpike road then?

The Magistrates here ordered the “sober” interrogator to “have a road” to the “lock up”, and to find sureties for his future good behaviour.

25 December 12 1829

A boatman named **Johnson** was charged with annoying his mother. His father being dead, the defendant erroneously supposed that the furniture belonged to him as heirable property. He was discharged on paying the expenses and promising to behave better in future.

26 February 13 1830

EXCHANGE, TUESDAY

DANGEROUS AFFRAY Two boatmen in the employ of Mr Wilson, iron founder, and three men of Thurmaston, (father and sons) named Allen, were all brought up for examination relative to an affray which took place between them on Saturday night last, which might have proved fatal to one of the former, who was seriously cut about the neck and face with a knife. The wounded man, whose name was **Bell**, was conducted into the room and, being placed upon a chair, gave the following account of the affair :- On Saturday night, about twelve o'clock, I was coming on the middle of the road near the Peacock Inn, at the bottom of Belgrave Gate, when this man (pointing to the eldest of the two sons) ran against me. I told him to draw back, when he struck me. I then struck him again, and knocked him down. On getting up again, he drew out his knife and stabbed me. The other two also came to his assistance and took hold of my jacket.

The captain of the boat, who was with or near to the complainant at the time, said :- The parties, after exchanging some words, had a scuffle together, when the complainant fell. Allen the elder got upon him, when I pushed him off again. Soon afterwards, the complainant said to me, “I am stabbed”, and showed me the blood which was running through his trousers. I then went in pursuit of the offender.

The defendant said :- When we met we had some conversation together, in which the boatman asked me what I meant. I then asked him the same question, when he struck me, observing, “That's what I mean”. We knocked each other down two or three times, when my father came to my assistance, asking him if he meant to murder me. I then drew out my knife in defence, and stabbed him. By this time, some more of my company came up.

Mr Meredith, who appeared on the part of the defendants, contended that the son had merely acted in his own defence. He and his party had some goods in their possession, and had it not been for that weapon, the son, while alone, would have been overpowered and probably robbed.

A person named Bates said :- I and two others were going home together, when one of them named Wright said he heard a cry of “murder”, which he thought proceeded from our party. When we got up, and on asking what was the matter, Allen the elder said, “We had liked to have been robbed”.

Mr Hunt, landlord of the Pack Horse, Belgrave Gate, said one of the defendant's party came to his house soon after twelve o'clock on the night in question, stating that two men had robbed their company ; this he thought could not be the case as six or eight started together. The wounded man was shortly brought to his house as a prisoner. Allen the elder denied that the boatmen had attempted to rob them, in his house. Mr Hunt, observing the deplorable condition of the man, very

prudently refused to allow any of the parties to quit his house till the arrival of the police, whom he immediately sent for.

Mr Oliver, surgeon, said the man had several wounds about his neck and face, and one about an inch and a quarter in depth in his bowels. One of his ears was also cut through. He was now, however, doing well.

The magistrates would not decide upon the case till the state of the man should be further known ; and they ordered all the parties to enter into recognisances to appear when called upon, in case there should be any further examination.

27 November 27 1830

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT An inquest was held at five o'clock on Sunday night at the Peacock Inn, Belgrave Gate, before C Meredith Esq, Coroner, touching the death of **Samuel Simmons**, a boatman apparently about forty years of age. Joshua Wells said about two o'clock that morning, he got upon the Courier coach to ride to Belgrave. When they were going by Britannia Street, two men called out to the coachman to stop, which he did. Witness supposed one of them got upon the coach behind, but could not be positive, as he was on the front and the night was dark. When the coach had got a few yards past the Peacock Inn, the coachman stopped the horses and said he heard something fall from the coach, upon which witness got down and went a short distance back, where he found a man's hat. On going a little further, he found the deceased, who was dressed in a blue smock frock, lying upon his back, and apparently dead. Witness raised him up, when he observed a profusion of blood issuing from his mouth and ears. He then called for assistance, and after the deceased was taken to the Peacock Inn, he went for medical aid. The Coroner and Jury complained of a deficiency of evidence to identify the deceased as being the person who got upon the coach near Britannia Street ; though they thought there could be but little doubt upon the subject. Mr Sumner, the foreman of the jury, and Mr Palmer went in search of the person who had accompanied the deceased to the coach, but could not find him. A person named Jones, who knew the deceased, said that **Austin Chamberlain** told him that he went with the deceased, and helped him upon the Courier coach about three o'clock in the morning. Chamberlain, however, had since gone off with a boat which belonged to the deceased's brother. Mr Oliver, surgeon, stated that he sent his assistant about three o'clock to attend the deceased, whom he found dead on his arrival at the Peacock. He had subsequently examined the body, but found no external fracture. He was of opinion that the deceased's death was caused by the rupture of a blood vessel in consequence of falling. Verdict : "Accidental death, by falling from a coach".

28 November 27 1830

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, TUESDAY **Charles Toone**, a boatman, was charged with stealing some coal from Mr Burbidge's wharf, but the owner not wishing to press the case, he was remanded for a week.

29 February 5 1831

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, TUESDAY **William Johnson**, a boatman in the employ of Mr Furnival of Market Harborough, was charged with assaulting J Moore, a constable.

The complainant said that, observing a great disturbance about 12 o'clock on Saturday night, near the North Bridge, between a number of boatmen, he took one of them into custody, when the defendant came and struck him, and made an attempt to rescue the man whom he had apprehended. The defendant said he was in a state of intoxication at the time, and declared that he was ignorant of the circumstance.

The Magistrates ordered him to be remanded for a week.

30 March 5 1831

HONESTY Early in the morning of the 23rd ult, as **Thomas Matlock**, boatman of Loughborough, was passing the Redhill lock on the river Soar with a boat of Mr Harrison's, he had occasion to take

his pocket book out of his side pocket to deliver his bill of lading to the collector, when he inadvertently left it on a post at the side of the lock, there being £20 in notes in it, besides other papers ; in the course of about half an hour after, **Israel Thompson**, on board Messrs Shenton and Pickering's fly boat, passed the said lock and found the pocket book, which he picked up, and the same day returned it to its owner with all its contents, without requiring any fee or reward for his trouble and fidelity.

31 April 23 1831

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, TUESDAY A boatman, who gave the name Barnsley Ned, was brought up, charged with stealing a dog from the bone yard of Mr Sumner on Sunday the 27th ult. The defendant said he had bought the dog for 6d of a sweep, in the Belgrave Gate, and had disposed of it at a village in Derbyshire to "Darby Bill". He was remanded for a fortnight.

32 July 30 1831

DIED On Wednesday last, aged 19, after a short indisposition, **Mary**, daughter of **Robert Draper**, boatman, Brookside, Loughborough.

33 September 3 1831

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, TUESDAY **Charles Craythorn**, a boatman, was brought up by Dent, a constable, who apprehended him about 3 o'clock on Sunday morning, on suspicion of stealing apples. The defendant said he found the apples on the Aylestone Road. The evidence not being sufficient against him, he was discharged.

34 October 22 1831

COUNTY SESSIONS William Jennings was charged with stealing a ton of coals, the property of Mr Henshaw of Loughborough, on the 2nd of September last. Charles Wilcox, servant of Mr Henshaw, went into the coal yard on the morning of the 3rd, and missed a quantity of coal. Did not authorise prisoner to take any coal away. The deficiency in the coal heap might have been caused by giving overweight to customers, but does not think it probable. Joseph Preston of Loughborough, coal higgler, remembers seeing the prisoner in Mr Henshaw's coal wharf at six o'clock on the evening in question, loading a cart from one of the coal stacks, and afterwards go away with it. Said nothing about it till nine or ten days afterwards. **Thomas Middleton** said he was agent to the Canal Company, and superintends the weighing machine. Remembers the day in question. Prisoner had no coals weighed that day, which he would have done had he purchased any. The weighing machine is close to the gate. Witness sometimes goes into the office ; while there, anybody might go to and from the wharf without him seeing them. **Thomas Sharp**, boatman and porter, was in the coal yard at six o'clock on the evening in question, and saw the prisoner's cart standing near the wharf ; but did not see the prisoner. Mr A Brewin, Mr W Harley and Mr W Simmons (three of the Grand Jury) gave the prisoner a most excellent character. The Jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty".

35 May 5 1831

MARRIED On Sunday last, at Sutton Bonington in this county, **Mr Richard Pepper**, boatman, Normanton-on-Soar, to Mrs Mary Wilkinson of the former place.

36 December 24 1831

On Wednesday last, a boatman named **George Storer** of Sutton Benington was accidentally drowned near Sibley lock. The waters were out, owing to the late rains, and he was passing along the towing-path, when both himself and the horse got into the canal, he was drowned, and the horse got safely out. While dragging for him shortly after, the body of another man, who had been missing for some time, was discovered.

37 February 4 1832

EXECUTION OF THE NOTTINGHAM RIOTERS ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4 A petition to the King for mercy towards the five men sentenced to death for rioting was forwarded, by deputation, on Monday night week, after receiving upwards of 25,000 signatures. On the following Wednesday, General Sir R G Ferguson, member for Nottingham, accompanied the deputation to his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, and obtained an interview. His Royal Highness promised to give the petition to Lord Melbourne, and to use every constitutional means in favour of the unhappy men. The petition prayed for an arrest of execution, on account of the innocence of the persons convicted, and for an inquiry into the nature of the evidence, upon the ground of the precipitate issuing of the special commission, which did not allow the prisoners time to procure the necessary evidence for their defence. These exertions on behalf of the condemned men were so far successful as to save the lives of two of them. On Tuesday, a respite, during his Majesty's pleasure, arrived for Charles Berkins, who was found guilty of setting fire to Colwick Hall, and Thomas Shelton, for firing Beeston Mill. The remaining prisoners, **George Beck**, George Hearson and John Armstrong, convicted of setting fire to and demolishing Beeston Mill, were left without the hope of mercy in this world.

After condemnation, the five men were all put into one room, and were visited, not only by Dr Wood, the chaplain of the prison, but also by the Methodist ministers and other spiritual advisers. Having great expectations that the strenuous exertions made on their behalf would be successful in effecting a commutation of their punishment, they did not pay that attention to eternal things which their awful state demanded.

During the afternoon of Friday, the prisoners expressed a wish to be alone, as they felt indisposed, which request, owing to their general good conduct, was acceded to. On Saturday evening, between seven and eight, their conduct excited considerable apprehension in the mind of their attendant, Bryan Barnes, of Colton near Nottingham, who had been with them every night since their condemnation. He determined to watch their proceedings very narrowly, and seeing Hearson and Beck go out of the condemned room into a cell where was a bed, he followed and offered to hold them a candle. Beck refused to let him, which caused Barnes to suddenly seize it and take it out of his hand. Hearson and Beck then carried the bed out of the cell into their room, but evidently as though there was something mysterious in what they were doing. Barnes soon obtained assistance, and communicated what had occurred to the gaoler who, on searching the bed, found inside the blankets slit up and tied together with knots at the distance of two feet asunder, to the length of 27 yards! These blankets had been thus prepared to attempt an escape, by throwing one end over the wall and securing them to the spikes at the top, and then pulling themselves up by the other end till they reached the top, and thus descend on the other side into the Narrow Marsh, a descent of many yards. Soon after this circumstance was discovered, a considerable number of men were seen in Narrow Marsh waiting for the attempt at escape, unconscious that the attempt had been frustrated ; they, however, soon went away, evidently disappointed.

The prisoners were then heavily ironed, except those who had taken no part in the transaction. During Sunday and Monday, every attempt was made on the part of those who visited the prisoners to bring them to a sense of their awful situation ; but, however, with little effect, except with Shelton and Berkins, who appeared very penitent.

On Tuesday, when the respite arrived for them, they expressed their thankfulness to God, and exhorted Beck, Hearson and Armstrong to listen to the advice of their spiritual pastors. On Tuesday evening, when visited by a clergyman and a friend, Armstrong said "he was a murdered man ; that he never was in the mill nor in the riot". Hearson said "if he was to say that he was not among the rioters, he should be telling a lie ; but what had been sworn against him, about throwing stones and carrying the bottle, was false. He wished then to turn his mind to a subject of a more important nature". Beck said very little and, with Armstrong, seemed to think less of the awful circumstances they were placed in than Heaton.

On being visited early the next morning, they all conversed more freely upon religious subjects, and appeared to have become penitent, The Rev Dr Wood administered to them the holy sacrament, a

little after ten o'clock, during which they paid the utmost attention to their devotional exercises. Armstrong afterwards expressed his hope of mercy through Christ, and declared he forgave all those who had trespassed against him. He appeared as if a considerable change had been wrought on him during the night.

Soon after eleven o'clock (the mail having arrived), they were informed that they must proceed to the place of execution as no respite had arrived, for evidently they were in some degree of hope even till that hour that they should be respited. Beck made no reply. Hearson's countenance fell, and Armstrong said, "Well, then, we must suffer". They kissed and shook hands with Shelton and Berkins, who stood at the door of their cell as they passed ; and on seeing some officers and a considerable number of the 18th Regiment of Foot in the yard adjoining the press room, Beck waved his hand and bid them goodbye. During the time of being pinioned, Hearson and Armstrong appeared more firm than they had during the morning. Hearson requested a glass of wine, which Mr Brierley, the gaoler, immediately gave to him. Just before he drank, Armstrong said, "May we all meet together in Heaven ; but I am a murdered man". They then with undaunted step proceeded to the body of the County Hall, where a few minutes were spent in prayer with the chaplain.

The prisoners were all dressed alike, wearing black coats and waistcoats, white trousers, white cotton gloves and black silk neckerchiefs. They shook hands with nearly all present, who appeared deeply affected for them. Beck ascended the platform with a firm step, but appeared sensible of his situation. A cry of "murder" was instantly heard in many parts of the crowd. A friend offered Hearson his arm, which he refused, saying, "No, I will go by myself". He advanced at a quick pace, and on reaching the steps ran quickly up, jumping upon the scaffold, and seeing a person he knew upon the roof of a house opposite, he cried out, "Well done, Bill" ; he then took off his white cap from his head, and with the black silk handkerchief he held in his hand, he waved them about as if in triumph towards the assembled multitude, who instantly gave several loud cheers. He then commenced a dance, which he continued several seconds, in as light and fantastic a style as if he had been in a much different situation. He was at length persuaded to desist from any further display, and he stood composed while the rope was adjusted. Armstrong, on seeing Hearson act thus, said, "I will have none of that", and coming upon the scaffold, he stood peaceable and composed, except nodding and moving to numbers he recognised in the crowd. He threw two oranges away, which were soon taken up. Hearson and Beck also waved to a great many of their acquaintance.

The ropes being adjusted, and all things ready, the chaplain commenced reading the funeral service, and on repeating the words "that in life we are in death", the drop fell, at twenty minutes before twelve o'clock, amidst a shriek of horror, which could not but affect the stoutest heart. There were upwards of ten thousand persons assembled who had been collecting ever since six o'clock in the morning ; and there is no doubt, had not the situation been so confined, thousands more would have witnessed the execution. The civil powers were aided by a detachment of the 18th Regiment of Foot, the 15th Hussars and the Queen's Bays, who were stationed in the County Gaol, St Mary's Church, Stoney Street and Market Street.

The bodies hung an hour, when they were cut down, and given to their friends. The crowd quietly dispersed, and we believe without a single accident occurring. Armstrong was interred in the afternoon, about five o'clock, in the new burial ground, Barker Gate, amidst a great crowd of spectators. The other two are to be buried on Sunday.

Beck was only twenty years of age. He was born at Wollerton, and has been employed as a boatman. When a boy, he was tap lad at the Eclipse public house, Chapel Bar, Nottingham, and afterwards served the bricklayers as labourer. He was, by his mother's side, related to Shaw, the Lifeguard's man, who fell at Waterloo.

Hearson was a native of Nottingham, and was in his twenty second year ; his father has been dead nearly twelve months ; his mother is yet living. He was married about a year and a half ago, but has no family. He was put to the business of a bobbin and carriage maker, and subsequently worked at the manufacture of lace. He was unfortunately too fond of pugilistic contests, and was thus frequently led into intercourse with idle and disorderly persons, and in the prize ring of this vicinity,

he had obtained the appellation of "Curley Hearson".

Armstrong was born at Pleasley near Mansfield ; his parents reside at Millstone Lane, Nottingham ; he has three brothers and two sisters also living in Nottingham. His father is a framework knitter in the (?????) branch, and brought his son to the same trade. He was a single man, but was engaged to a young woman residing in (?????) and the banns were due to have been read at church for the first time the Sunday after his arrest for the offences for which he has suffered. The last ten years of his life have been spent in Nottingham, though he has lived in Mansfield, Derby and other places, when employment could not be obtained at Nottingham. His character has generally stood fair for civility, sobriety and honesty through life.

Since his imprisonment, he has been cheerful and resigned, expressing to his family a hope that he should meet them in a better world. On taking leave of a cousin, he requested him to come on Tuesday morning for a list of his bearers, and if he did not send it out to him, he would find it in his pocket after death.

38 April 14 1832

On Thursday week, a boatman named **Marshall** was found dead in bed at Mountsorrel.

39 July 7 1832

LEICESTERSHIRE MIDSUMMER SESSIONS William Spencer, 24, and Edward Wade, charged with stealing, on the 26th of April, a piece of beef, some bread, onions and other provisions from the premises of John Charlesworth of Loughborough.

Eliza Gilbert, servant of the prosecutor, saw the articles stolen in her master's kitchen on the evening of the 26th of April, but missed them on the morning following. The windows had been forced ; and she had no doubt that the thieves had obtained entrance by that means.

Luke Taylor, frame knitter, was at the Stag and Pheasant, Loughborough, on the 26th of April, and saw the prisoners come in at dusk hour. About two hours afterwards, witness left the house, and being locked out, he lay down to sleep in Mr Brewin's hovel. In a quarter of an hour he heard two men and a woman talking, who came in to him. They immediately pulled the straw off him, and he cried, "Don't do that!" upon which one man said, "Holla, old chap, are you there?" Witness thought from the tone of voice that the prisoners were the men, but he did not see them, and could not swear to the fact. Had never sworn to them before the magistrates. He judged it to be them, but he could not swear to them. Witness lay till Brewin's men came to work, who complained of some bottles being broken ; and he told them a woman and two men had been there, the latter of whom he thought to be Spencer and Wade. The prisoners remained in the hovel some time, and one of them lay down near the witness, but he could not see so clearly at that hour as to recognise him.

Howe, a Loughborough watchman, met Spencer on the night in question after 12 o'clock, between the prosecutor's and Dr Peach's.

John Boneham, a boatman, saw Wade and Spencer between 4 and 5 in the morning of the 27th, when Wade asked him to buy part of a rump of beef, and other provisions, which he had found. Witness gave 2s for the whole, Spencer receiving the money. On hearing afterwards that the prisoners were in custody, he gave information of the circumstance.

Eliza Gilbert recalled : The meat stolen was the tail end of the rump.

James Harris, constable, noticed the marks and measured the length of footsteps near the window, in a garden. Witness traced similar footmarks from the prosecutor's house to Mr Brewin's barn, and further on to Mr Henshaw's hovel, where he perceived that someone had sat down and had been eating, onion peels, pieces of bread &c lying on the ground. Witness then traced the steps to Boneham's house ; and afterwards apprehended the prisoners, and took the boots off their feet, which corresponded with the footsteps. Their breath smelt strong of onions, and some pieces of onion were found in Wade's pocket.

Samuel Shelton, boatman, had known Spencer for some years, during which his conduct had been very good.

This witness, after much prevarication, admitted that he had *heard* that Spencer had been

apprehended for felony, and had been confined in bridewell, but he “could not say for certain, because – he had not seen him there”.

A waterman who had employed Wade, never knew him to be guilty of any harm, always finding him a good servant.

By the Counsel : Had *heard* that Wade had done something curious, but did not *know* whether or not it was true.

Wade, in his defence, said that he had taken the victuals from home for two or three days, but not engaging with his master, he sold them to Boneham.

Ann Wade (prisoner's mother) deposed that she had, on the night of the 26th, prepared for him a piece of beef, some onions, bread, &c.

By the Counsel : Had been in court during the whole of the trial, and heard the evidence.

John Simpson of Loughborough, stocking maker, was at the prisoner's house on the 26th, and saw his mother put him up a bit of beef, and other victuals.

By the Counsel : Had been in court during the trial.

Verdict “Guilty”. To be transported seven years.

40 July 14 1832

THE COURT FOR THE RELIEF OF INSOLVENT DEBTORS The matters of the Petitions and Schedules of the Prisoners hereinafter named (the same having been filed in the Court) are appointed to be heard as follows :-

JOHN JELLEY, formerly of Sutton Bonington in the county of Nottingham, boatman ; and late of Loughborough in the county of Leicester, boatman.

41 July 14 1832

“DABBLING IN THE STOCKS” A man named **Austin Chamberlain**, a boatman from Oakham, sat six hours in the stocks at Loughborough on Monday last ; part of the sentence for being drunk on a Sunday in April last, and assaulting a constable. After this sedentary employment, he was sent to enjoy the more active and healthful exercise of the tread wheel for two months.

42 August 18 1832

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE **Thomas Matlock**, boatman, Loughborough, for obstructing Harris in the discharge of his duty, to pay the costs and find sureties for three months.

43 September 8 1832

CHOLERA The inhabitants of the lower end of Belgrave Gate were thrown into a state of considerable alarm on Friday evening, owing to the death of a boatman named **Bramley**, who had been taken ill that morning and died soon after six o'clock the same day. He rose at six o'clock in the morning, but feeling himself unwell, he got into bed again and remained there until eight. Instead, however, of confining himself to his house and sending for medical assistance, he soon after quitted his residence and occupied himself in unloading his boat till noon, when he became so seriously ill as to deem it necessary to call in Mr T Paget jun who, considering the case one of spasmodic cholera, paid the most sedulous attention to his condition, but in vain, as he died in about six hours afterwards. Mr Wilkinson of the Infirmary and, we believe, another surgeon, saw the unfortunate man during the afternoon, and concurred in opinion as to the nature of disease. Dr Hill, after hearing the symptoms described by the above gentleman, also gave it as his opinion that they were such as never accompanied an attack of the common English cholera. These facts having been communicated to the chairman of the Board of Health established in the parish (St Margaret's), a meeting of the members was convened at half past eight the same evening, when some resolutions were entered into as to the course to be pursued on the occasion, to prevent as far as possible the disease from spreading. Next day, the body of Bramley was interred, and his clothes and bedding burnt. Since then, the very spacious premises known as the horse bazaar in Humberstone Gate have been taken for a cholera hospital. We are happy to say, however, that up to the present time, no

other case of cholera has been reported. Bramley was employed by Messrs Foster and Co to accompany a market boat to Harborough and back weekly, and was in comfortable circumstances, the tenement in which he resided being his own property. He was about 50 years of age.

44 September 15 1832

CHOLERA MORBUS Mr S Davies, in a letter dated Bilston, September 5, says :-

“The population of Bilston, according to the late census, is 15,000. The majority of the inhabitants, constituting what is called the lower or working class, are employed in the coal and iron trade, with the exception of 200 or 300 employed in japan manufactories – that is in the manufacture of japan goods. Raising coal and iron from the mines, extracting the iron from the ore and manufacturing it, constitute the employment of the majority of the inhabitants. The cholera made its appearance, or rather commenced its ravages, in this town on the 4th of August. From that time up to the 4th September, we had 2143 cases of cholera and 651 deaths. In addition to the above, which are reported as cases of malignant cholera, there have been at the dispensary for the last fortnight, 280 cases of first symptoms per day. The opening of a dispensary, at which persons feeling indisposition can obtain immediate and gratuitous advice and medicine, will be, in my opinion, the most efficient means of stopping the progress of the disorder wherever it exists. The average mortality for about eight days 40 per day – for seven other days 30 a day. One day there were 49 funerals. The disorder has so far left us, that for the last four days we have not had more than 7 or 8 deaths per day ; though we have had an average 180 cases of first symptoms at the dispensary. I hesitate not to state that the inhabitants of this mining district have been rendered more susceptible of the disease than they would otherwise have been, through the depressed state of the iron trade. The majority of the poor in this neighbourhood are in great distress ; and the relief of their distress will be necessary to prevent the recurrence of the plague.”

Three cases of cholera have recently occurred at Shardlow. The first person attacked was a boatman's wife, who left Bilston in Staffordshire a short time ago. She was attended by Mr Jones of Shardlow, who rendered her all the assistance in his power, but she died on Sunday, and was buried in Aston church yard by torchlight. The bedding was removed from the cabin in which she died, and burnt upon the wharf. Another woman, a boatman's wife, was attacked but she recovered. The third case is that of a young man who assists in unloading boats – hopes are entertained of his recovery. On Monday, a meeting of the inhabitants of Shardlow was held, when it was resolved to fit up a large Trent boat for a cholera hospital. We understand three persons named **Wheeldon**, members of the same family, have died of cholera at Castle Donington. The father was attacked on Wednesday se'nnight, and died on the following day. He was a boatman of intemperate habits ; he had fallen into the canal while intoxicated, but instead of changing his clothes, he went to a public house and drank three pints of ale, and afterwards slept in his wet shirt. The next morning, he put on his wet clothes again, and the following day he was taken ill. A son was attacked on Saturday and died on Sunday. A daughter was taken ill on Sunday and died on Monday morning ; she was married and had a family, but did not live with her father. It is supposed she was infected by washing her father's linen after his decease. *Derby Reporter*

DEATH OF A CHOLERA PATIENT FROM EXPOSURE – VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER

On Thursday week, a man named Vicary, 68 years of age, an itinerant vendor of sweetmeats, was taken ill at Dawlish of decided cholera. Alarmed at the presence of the disease in that fashionable watering place, “the gentlemen” (so termed by the witnesses at the Coroner's inquest) had the poor man taken from his bed, with only his shirt and stockings on, put into a covered cart wrapped in a blanket and coverlid, his feet hanging over the tail of the cart, and conveyed to his home at Exeter, a distance of several miles, where, though he had every attention paid him by the medical gentlemen of the place, he died on the following day ; his death being either caused or accelerated by an exposure of four hours on the road. The Jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Captains Robert Leeson, William Hall and R Ferris, who have been admitted to bail. *Stockport Advertiser*

45 October 13 1832

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE **Abraham White** of Loughborough, boatman, committed for two months to hard labour, for destroying the nets of Mr Wright at the lower mill, and stealing a quantity of eels.

46 December 1 1832

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE **Robert Turner** of Loughborough, boatman, summoned by George Lee of the same place for non payment of wages, ordered to pay the same, with costs.

47 February 16 1833

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, TUESDAY **Robert Turner** of Loughborough, boatman, fined 10s and costs for an assault upon Mr Butler, and to be bound in £5 sureties to keep the peace towards complainant.

48 April 13 1833

SINGULAR AND AFFECTING DISCOVERY A discovery of a very affecting kind was made, a few days ago, at Runcorn. A boatman picked up, at low water, a shoe containing the remains of a human foot, with the foot of the stocking. He was in the act of taking it to show his acquaintance, when he met a fellow boatman, an elderly man, to whom he showed the shoe and its contents. The poor man immediately recognised the shoe, from a patch on the toe, as having belonged to his own son, a young man about 18, who had been drowned about two years ago, near to the spot where the discovery was made. He carried the melancholy relic home and showed it to his wife, stating his belief that it had belonged to their lamented son. The mother examined the stocking foot, which she knew to have belonged to her poor child, from a peculiar darning she had given the stocking foot before his sudden and awful death. The reader may imagine what the feelings of the parents were when examining these affecting mementoes of their unfortunate boy. *Liverpool Albion*

49 April 20 1833

MURDER NEAR BARROW In our last paper, we had a paragraph stating that a girl named Thurman, aged about 12 years, had thrown herself into the canal at Barrow lock, and had been drowned. From what has since transpired, we are sorry to learn that there is too much reason for believing that she had fallen a victim to brutal violence. An inquest has been held on the body, and adjourned, from time to time, for further investigation. Two boatmen have been taken into custody on suspicion of being concerned in her death, and a third is said to have absconded. It seems that a boat having passed through Barrow lock, another soon after followed, on opening the gate for which an obstruction presented itself, and the body of the deceased was then discovered, scarcely cold, and part of the clothing not wet through. It is supposed that the unfortunate child, after being strangled, was thrown out of the first boat.

50 April 27 1833

INQUESTS On Wednesday (which was the day to which the jury summoned in the case of the little girl, Thurman, mentioned in our last, was adjourned), the painful novelty occurred of *three* inquests coming before the same jury at one sitting. In the case of the little girl taken out of the canal, they returned a verdict of *wilful murder* against some person or persons unknown. Two men of the names of **Jennings** and **Staniford**, both boatmen, had been previously committed for trial by the Rev John Dudley. The second inquest was held on the body of a female who had lived in the family of W Middleton Esq, banker, Loughborough, as house maid, and on Monday afternoon destroyed herself by taking poison. Medical aid was immediately procured, and the stomach pump applied, and every means resorted to for her recovery, but in vain. A verdict of *felo de se* returned. Her body was interred at a late hour in the evening, in the churchyard, amidst a great number of spectators. The third was held on a boy about seven or eight years of age, of the name of William Brookes, who was accidentally burnt to death by his clothes taking fire on Monday evening, and a

verdict returned accordingly.

51 May 11 1833

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, TUESDAY MAY 7 A boatman named **Mason** charged Mr Hackett of Churchgate with breaking his head with a “proker”, and for no other reason than that he requested payment of a small sum due to him as wages. The defendant denied that he was indebted to Mason, and explained the alleged assault as follows :- On Monday night, he said, the complainant called at his house to make a demand of wages. Defendant told him that he had received money to account from the boat captain, who was from home, and he therefore could not strike a balance until his return. Mason refused to depart, and the defendant was about to close the door, when the former placed his foot against it, to prevent him. Defendant desired his servant to bring a poker to block the door, which being too short, he sent her back for a piece of wood. (Mason said that the girl's order was, “Bring the proker, and I'll knock his brains out”.) The complainant (continued Mr H) then said he would go away if his foot were set free, whereupon he ceased holding the door ; but no sooner had he done this, than the complainant rushed upon him most furiously, and twice he parried his blows. Mason, however, persevered in his attack, and Mr H was compelled, in self defence, to strike him, not with the poker, but with the piece of wood. Each party wishing to have an opportunity afforded other evidence, the case was adjourned for a further hearing.

52 June 22 1833

COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICE **William Freer** of Smeeton Westerby and **William Winford** of Mountsorrel, boatmen, were summoned to answer the complaint of Edward Dunn, agent to the Union Canal Company, for wasting the water at one of the locks on the 8th of June, contrary to the Act. They were allowed to retire and settle ; defendants discharged on paying the expenses.

53 July 13 1833

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, TUESDAY JULY 9 **William Knowles**, who had hired himself for fifty one weeks to **William Brown** as a boatman, and left him in less than a month, was brought before the Bench ; and not being able to give any reason for deserting his master, and refusing to return, he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

54 July 13 1833

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE – THURSDAY JULY 11 **William Turner**, boatman, ordered to pay George Volkey 3s and the costs of a warrant, for insulting him.

55 July 27 1833

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE – THURSDAY JULY 25 **William Place** of Loughborough, boatman, charged by the constable of Loughborough with non payment of costs, ordered to pay them, with the additional costs, or a distress to be granted.

56 August 31 1833

COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICE, LEICESTER – SATURDAY AUGUST 24 Mr Halford Adcock, on behalf of the Navigation Company, charged Mr T Rodgers (who rents a wharf at the Railway Station, the property of T Paget Esq) with obstructing the navigation.

A witness for the complaint deposed that at the time stated in the information, he saw a boatman, on coming to the wharf, take out his horse, and lead it off the towing-path.

The defendant replied that, on the occasion in question, the horse was not taken out in consequence of any obstruction which then existed more particularly than at other times, but in pursuance of an invariable practice, adopted by the boatmen for their own convenience, and ;

Mr Paget remarked that the witness could only speak to the fact of the horse being taken out, not to the motive which induced the boatman so to unloose it.

Some conversation followed as to the right of the owners of land on the banks of the canal to place

anything whatever on the towing-path.

Mr Paget argued that they had such right – that they might place what they chose thereon at any time, save only when so doing would cause an actual obstruction ; if it were otherwise – if they could not place anything on the path when a boat was not passing that would amount to an obstruction if a boat were passing, then they could not themselves walk on the path, nor have a load of manure conveyed over it from a boat for the benefit of their own land, without incurring a penalty. It would, he said, be absurd in the Legislature to give the owners of the land power to erect wharfs, and at the same time declare that they should not make use of them.

One or two of the Magistrates concurred in this opinion, but thought it would be preferable, as a point of law was involved in the question, that the opinion of Counsel should be taken.

Mr Adcock said that Mr P had ingeniously led the Bench from the real question – the actual obstruction complained of – to a consideration of the abstract right of landowners to place on the towing-path what would be an obstruction if not removed in time.

Mr Paget denied that there had been any actual obstruction, and maintained that the decision required was between the right of the landowners to use the path in any manner which did not involve an actual obstruction, and the power of the Navigation Company to prevent them – a point which he would recommend Mr Adcock to try at the Quarter Sessions.

This question the Magistrates did not consider themselves a competent tribunal to entertain.

Mr Adcock offered to withdraw the charge if Mr Paget would promise that nothing in future should be laid on the path.

“Most certainly I will make no such promise”, replied Mr Paget, “to do so would be to sacrifice my right to my own property ; but this I will promise – that there shall be no obstruction to the navigation”.

Mr Adcock did not close with this offer, and the parties retired without any decisions being given by the Bench.

57 September 14 1833

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE – THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12 **John Shepherd** of Loughborough, boatman, ordered to find two sureties in £5 each, to keep the peace for three months towards John Thurman of that place.

58 September 28 1833

The two boatmen who were some time ago apprehended on suspicion of the rape and murder of the girl named Elizabeth Thurman, and liberated on the Grand Jury discharging the bill, were again taken into custody this week, and placed in the County Gaol, further evidence having transpired.

[**Jennings and Staniford**]

59 November 23 1833

ROBBERY On Thursday the 14th instant, as a boatman in the employ of Mr Furnival of Market Harborough, was returning home about ten o'clock in the evening, he was knocked down, near to the Town Hall, by a soldier belonging to a foot regiment, who rifled his pockets of 19s and immediately made his escape, but was soon afterwards captured and taken before the Magistrates, who fully committed him for trial. [**Joseph Whitby**]

60 November 30 1833

LOUGHBOROUGH THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28 **Robert Smedley** of Loughborough, boatman, ordered to pay 3s and costs for profuse swearing at Loughborough.

61 January 4 1834

A FRESHWATER SAILOR v A SOLDIER Thomas Tallant, aged 29, a corporal of the 35th regiment, was charged with having, on the night of the 10th of November, stolen half a sovereign and nine shillings from the person of **Joseph Whitby**, a boatman, in Market Harborough.

The prosecutor deposed that he was at the Red Cow in Market Harborough on the night in question. He was rather fresh, and had some gin and water whilst there. The prisoner and two other soldiers were in the house, and he and the former came away together. NO ONE BUT THE PRISONER LEFT WITH HIM. Near the Town Hall, the prisoner knocked him down and took his money from his pocket.

The constable by whom the prisoner was apprehended deposed that he found upon him only tenpence, but got a half sovereign and 13s 6d from the pockets of the comrade with whom the prisoner had slept overnight.

The prisoner, in his defence, stated that the prosecutor was tipsy when at the Red Cow, and produced two £10 notes, for which he (prisoner) checked him, saying it was foolish in him to expose money among strangers, and he had better give it in charge to the landlord. This the prisoner refused to do, and on rising to go away, asked one of the parties to accompany him. The prisoner objected, unless he would leave his money with the landlord, as if he should lose it, it would subject his companions to suspicion. Still the prosecutor refused, and renewed his entreaties to them to go with him to another public house, as the landlord of the Red Cow had declined to draw any more liquor. THE PRISONER, ONE OF THE PRIVATES AND THE PROSECUTOR THEN LEFT THE HOUSE TOGETHER, and went in the direction of the prisoner's and private's billet. The prisoner, on reaching a street which led to the billet, wished the private to go thither, but he refused and prisoner went alone, leaving the prosecutor and prisoner together.

Mr Beckett, landlord of the Rose and Crown, corroborated the testimony of the prisoner as to the £10 notes, adding that when the private folded them up and handed them to the prosecutor to put in his money bag, the prisoner said, "No, open them, that he might see he has his money, or he may afterwards, if he should lose them, suspect you". Witness also said that BOTH THE PRIVATE AND THE PRISONER ACCOMPANIED THE PROSECUTOR from his house ; yet, when the committing Magistrate expressed his surprise that the prosecutor could swear so positively to the person of the man who robbed him, when he was tipsy at the time, the prosecutor replied that he was quite sure on the subject, because no one but the prisoner left the house with him.

Arnold, the private, gave evidence favourable to the prisoner, except in one or two particulars which contradicted his comrade's and the landlord's statement ; but the discrepancies were such as might arise from the witness's intoxication on the night of the alleged robbery.

Major Denholm of the 35th regiment deposed that he had known the prisoner eighteen months, during which he had borne an excellent character as an honest man and a good soldier. It was through him (witness) that the prisoner had been made a corporal, and in consequence of his good conduct. To prove the high estimation in which the prisoner was held by his fellow soldiers of the detachment with which he had been stationed at Nottingham, he (witness) would mention that when the intelligence of the prisoner's committal reached them, they immediately assembled and requested witness to sanction their subscribing towards retaining a counsel for the defence.

Ensign Forester, also of the 35th, said he had known the prisoner six years, and had heard nothing against his character but, on the contrary, knew him to have the charge of the post office letters – an office of great trust.

The jury returned a verdict of Acquittal, in which the Chairman expressed his concurrence.

62 March 15 1834

LOUGHBOROUGH THURSDAY MARCH 13 **William Simmons**, boatman, to pay 8s wages due to Thomas Nichols.

63 March 29 1834

James Thompson and **Joseph Moor**, boatmen, stood indicted for stealing 2 cwt of salt belonging to Mr Kirk of Mountsorrel, on the 11th of March. Mr Kirk being called by Mr Humfrey, said that he had had a cargo of salt invoiced to him, and in consequence of what had been told him, went to the prisoners' boat and there found some lumps of salt covered over. Mrs Briggs, publican, said the prisoners came to her house on the 11th March and told her that if she would send a boy to their

boat, they would give her some salt. She did so accordingly, and they gave her about a pound, which Mr Kirk owned. They owed her for some ale. Samuel Pryor, a constable, went to the boat, found the salt, and took the prisoners to the round house, where he overheard Moor say that if they had not gone to Mrs Briggs's, all would have been right ; to which Thompson replied that he thought not, as the old man (prosecutor) had a suspicion of them &c. Thompson also, on another occasion, when leaving the round house, gave him (witness) a “nudge” on the elbow and said, “It's Moor”.

Mr White (for the prisoners) : Where were your ears when you overheard the conversation about the salt?

Witness : On my head?

Mr White : Very probably, but where was you?

Witness : Listening at the air hole.

Mr Humfrey having stated this to be the case, for the prosecution ;

The Judge intimated that it appeared to him to be only the skeleton of a case, and directed the jury to acquit the prisoners, which they did accordingly.

64 April 26 1834

PETTY SESSIONS

EXCHANGE LEICESTER TUESDAY APRIL 13 **Thomas Jennings**, boatman, was remanded on a charge of embezzlement.

65 July 5 1834

Leicestershire Sessions

ASSAULTING A LOUGHBOROUGH CONSTABLE **Philip, John** and **William Simmons** (brothers), William Johnson and William Revell were charged with assaulting James Harris, a Loughborough police officer, whilst in the execution of his duty.

James Harris deposed that he had a warrant to serve upon Philip Simmonds for a felony. [Witness produced the warrant, which was signed by the Rev J Dudley, and charged the prisoner with “entering the house of Elizabeth Haslam of Loughborough on the 12th of June, indecently exposing his person, and stealing a quantity of butter and sugar”. Mr Humfrey, counsel for the defence, said (laughing) that he had never met with so curious a document during the whole course of his experience.] On the 14th of June, witness went to the Ram Inn in Loughborough, where Philip Simmons then was, to apprehend him, but he refused to be taken, and kicked and struck witness violently. Witness then charged each of the prisoners in succession to lend their assistance, but they all sat still except William Johnson, who rose to liberate Philip Simmons from witness's grasp, and John Simmons used exciting language. Thomas Tiler then came in, and assisted witness in dragging Philip into the parlour, where Thomas Mitchell also lent his assistance. They succeeded in handcuffing their prisoner, who cried out to his comrades, “Come and get me away, or they'll kill me”, and immediately the other prisoners rushed into the room, and witness was kicked several times, but by whom he could not say. On the road to the House of Detention, the prisoner kicked witness, and William Johnson struck him. Cross-examined : Revell assisted witness on the road to the House of Detention when he found there was no hope of a rescue. The indictment against Philip Simmons for a robbery had been thrown out by the Grand Jury. Elizabeth Haslam was housekeeper to **George Newby**, a boatman, and a comrade of the prisoners.

Thomas Mitchell corroborated such of the foregoing circumstances as had occurred in his presence. Mr Humfrey said that three of the prisoners had, according to the constable's own statement, been guilty of no greater crime than that of sitting still, and yet they were charged with “beating, wounding, ill treating and assaulting James Harris, and inflicting upon him other wrongs”. (A laugh). They sat still while the constable ill naturedly charged brothers to assist in apprehending a brother, and only interfered when that brother cried out that he was in danger of bodily injury. He (Mr H) would not palliate the resistance of a magistrate's warrant, but really he must say the warrant in question was the oddest production that had ever come under his notice. The joinder of the indecent exposure with the theft of half a pound of sugar (laughter) was perfectly unique ; and

seeing that “entering the house” was made one of the charges in the warrant, he was surprised that the prisoner had not been indicted for burglary. (Laughter.) His opinion was that the Grand Jury, having thrown out all these grave charges, had found the bill for the assault in compassion to the poor constable who had so much bother about the matter.

The Chairman said that the Jury must not attend to the learned gentleman's observations relative to the warrant because, being issued by a Magistrate, the constable was bound to execute it without questioning the propriety of its contents, and the prisoner Philip Simmons was equally bound to obey it.

The jury found Philip Simmons and William Johnson guilty, and acquitted the other prisoners ; the Court sentenced those who were convicted to be imprisoned – the former to six and the latter to four months hard labour.

66 July 5 1834

On Wednesday, an inquest was held at the Duke of York, Loughborough, before C Meredith Esq, coroner, on the body of a child, about five years of age, belonging to **Mr Waterfield**, boatman, who fell in the canal. Verdict, “Found drowned”.

67 September 20 1834

DIED On Wednesday, **James Whigley**, boatman, of the Rushes.

68 September 27 1834

PETTY SESSIONS

EXCHANGE LEICESTER, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 **William Fishlock**, boatman, charged with stealing a plank, the property of Messrs Cort, was remanded.

69 October 18 1834

LOUGHBOROUGH, THURSDAY OCTOBER 9 **Thomas Collins** of Loughborough, boatman, ordered to pay the costs, for absenting himself from the service of his master, **John Rozzel**.

70 November 29 1834

DIED At Loughborough – On Friday, **Samuel Pickard**, boatman, aged 40 years.

71 December 27 1834

PETTY SESSIONS

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 **John Newcome**, boatman, who, like his namesake and “brother sailor” Johnnie Newcome of the navy, occasionally gets into a scrape, was charged with taking the leading part in a Barkby Lane row on Friday night, whilst under the influence of an overcharge of grog. The Magistrates reprimanded the freshwater tar, and turned him adrift.

72 January 24 1835

PETTY SESSIONS

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, TUESDAY JANUARY 17 **William Smith**, boatman, was committed for trial at the sessions on suspicion of stealing 9 1/2 cwt of coals, the property of Mr T Rodgers. On Saturday night, it was deposed, upwards of four tons of coals were lying in a boat at Mr R's wharf, upwards of a ton of which was missed on Monday morning, and 9 1/2 cwt found on Smith's boat, near St Mary's Mill. The coal in question was of a description sold only by Mr Rodgers, and one piece which he noticed on Saturday night, and casually marked with a pencil, observing that it was of superior quality, was among that which was found in the prisoner's boat. Smith said that he did not know how the coal came in his boat ; it was not he who put it there. **John Holdsworth**, who had some connection with Smith and the boat, was bound over to appear at the sessions.

73 May 2 1835

PETTY SESSIONS

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, TUESDAY APRIL 28 Informations were laid against three or four beer house keepers by Moses Pegg, of whom some were convicted ; and on

WEDNESDAY APRIL 29, a special sessions was held, to give that public spirited gentleman an opportunity of proceeding to the conclusion of his list. The first beer house keeper called was :-

William Orton, of the Union, Thames Street, who was charged with selling ale between the hours of three and five o'clock in the afternoon of Good Friday.

William Morley (of Nottingham) deposed that, at half past four, he entered by the back door, the front one being fast. Witness had half a pint of ale, which was drawn for him by a man, but whether the defendant or not, he could not say. There were three men playing at bowls in the yard.

John Westbury deposed that he saw Morley go into the yard door of defendant's house at half past four on Good Friday afternoon. Witness looked through some nicks in the door, and saw some men playing at bowls.

William Thomson, boatman, deposed (for the defendant) that he went into the house at two o'clock on Good Friday, in company with three others, to see to his horses. They had one pint of ale, and then the landlord refused to draw any more. At three o'clock, the house was locked up, witness's companions having previously gone away. Except witness, there was only the family in the house till six o'clock. Nobody came in during the afternoon, and witness heard nobody playing at bowls.

James Hill, boatman, was next called into the room, and deposed that he, Thomson and another went to the defendant's at two o'clock to fettle their horses, and asked for a pint of ale, which the landlord refused to draw. Witness and Thomson remained in the house all the afternoon, without having any drink. There was no other company in the house ; no one called in ; and no drink was drawn for anybody.

The Magistrates, after deliberating, said that, having taken into consideration the contradictory evidence of the witnesses brought for the defence, they were strongly inclined to inflict the full penalty, but had agreed to mitigate it to 40s and costs.

74 August 22 1835

INSOLVENT DEBTORS COURT The business of this Court commenced at the Castle of Leicester on Monday morning at ten o'clock, before T B Bowen Esq, Commissioner.

James Smedley of Loughborough, boatman, was opposed by Mr Bond, on behalf of Mr Lewin of Ashfordby.

The insolvent, it appeared, had been employed for a short time as a farm labourer, during which he and others had lodged and boarded at Mr Lewin's, and "the shot" had not been discharged. His excuse was that he was taken to Mr Lewin's by the person who had employed him, and who was to bear his expenses. Since the debt was contracted, he had been arrested for some other debt, and his furniture sold.

Mr Bond offered little opposition to the insolvent's petition ; and the Commissioner, in extending to him the benefit of the Act, said that his debts altogether only amounted to £12 7s.

75 August 22 1835

LOUGHBOROUGH, THURSDAY AUGUST 20 **John Rossell**, a boatman, was fined 10s and costs for ill treating his horse.

76 September 12 1835

LOUGHBOROUGH, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10 **Philip and William Simmonds** and **William Johnson**, all boatmen of Loughborough, were charged with a breach of the peace in the night, to pay 5s each and costs.

77 November 28 1835

LOUGHBOROUGH, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26 **John Blood**, a boatman of Loughborough,

fined 10s and costs, for placing coals on the wharf, after being discharged from so doing.

78 December 19 1835

LOUGHBOROUGH, THURSDAY DECEMBER 17 **Israel Hawkins**, a boatman of Loughborough, charged with running against the boat of **Thomas Tebbutt**, to pay costs.

79 February 13 1836 Leicester Petty Sessions

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2 **William Thompson**, boatman, was charged by Abraham Evans with fighting in High Street at 12 o'clock on Saturday night. His antagonist had contrived to make an escape. The prisoner said that he and the other man had been drinking at Southey's, over the West Bridge, till about 10 o'clock, and then went to Mott's liquor shop, after which they quarrelled and fought. The Magistrates inflicted a fine of 5s upon the prisoner for being drunk, and then set him at liberty.

80 March 2 1836

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, FRIDAY MARCH 11 **Isaac Parks, Robert Beresford and John Houghton**, three boatmen, were charged by **Samuel Powell** and **William Potts**, two of the same fraternity, with having very much ill used them, kicked them, &c. It appeared from the evidence that on Tuesday night last, about 6 o'clock, the parties were passing their boats near the Mary Mills, when a quarrel ensued, which ended in blows, and in which the prisoners displayed what the Mayor termed "brutal and disgraceful conduct", kicking Potts when he was down, upon the head, and otherwise ill treating both him and Powell. Parks and Beresford were ordered to pay a fine of £1 each and expenses, or in default to go to prison for a month ; and Houghton (in consequence of his not having taken so active a part) was fined 10s or in default to go to gaol for a fortnight. They ultimately paid the fine, we understand.

81 March 19 1836

HORSE STEALING On Thursday, two boatmen were committed for trial at the Borough Assizes, charged with stealing a horse belonging to their employer, named **Hodson**, which they had brought to this town with a canal boat, and sold for 35s. By the commendable activity of the Police, the prisoners were in custody within one hour after information of the robbery had been given them, and the horse itself was fetched from the person at Woodhouse, who had bought it, the same night.

[see below : **Walven and Booth**]

82 March 26 1836 Leicester Borough Assizes

A NARROW ESCAPE **Joseph Walven** and **George Booth**, two rough looking boatmen, were put to the bar charged with having stolen a mare, the property of **William Hodson**.

The prosecutor stated that he was coming from Derbyshire to Leicester with his boat, but was stopped at Leicester, owing to the floods. He stopped at the Railway Inn with his two horses on the 16th of March, and saw them safe in the stable, but at two o'clock on the same day one of them (a mare) was gone ; did not see it again until next day, when it was in the hands of the police.

Booth : You ha' given me the mare – you ha' said I might ha' her two or three times over.

Richard Watnell examined : I was at Leicester on the 16th March at the Red Lion, and afterwards at the Magpie, where I found these two gentlemen (meaning the prisoners). There were other people drinking there. This nearest gentleman (the prisoner Booth) said he had a mare to sell, and the other gentleman said so also. They said it was at the Railway Inn, and this gentleman – the little one – said he wanted three pounds for her. That was all that was said at that time about price. I and my father and Booth went to the Railway Inn ; we went into the stable and looked at her, and this gentleman (a laugh) untied her, and gave me the halter into my hands, and then I led her out of the stable, and we looked at her. I chucked the halter over her neck, and she went into the stable again. We then went into the Railway Inn, and I gave £1 15s for her ; we had not much bargaining. I paid this gentleman (Booth) for her. Me and my father then took her away. The same mare was given at

11 o'clock at night to Betts, the police sergeant.

Prisoner Walven : I had nothing to do with the mare – had I?

Witness : No.

Walven : Neither showing on her nor selling on her.

Witness : No.

A man named Welsh, a dyer, deposed that he was lodging at the Magpie, and saw the two prisoners there drinking, and they said they had a mare to sell. After a while, some people came in saying they wanted to buy one, and finally they went to the Railway Inn along with the prisoner Booth ; Walven had said they should have her for £3.

The prosecutor Hodson was recalled, and examined by the Judge, particularly as to the way the prisoner Booth disposed of the mare in the stable. He stated that Booth untied the halter which held the mare to the stall, but did not lead it out of the stable, or did he lead it at all. In consequence of this

The Judge stopped the case. He stated that it was unfortunate, but the evidence did not prove the robbery, and the Jury must find a verdict of “Not Guilty”, which they did. He explained that legally, the case being of this nature, the men must be acquitted.

(We are not acquainted with the law in this case, but really this seems a curious legal proceeding. We have no doubt that the learned Judge acted in perfect accordance with the law, although we must confess that if this be law, a roguishly disposed man may with great ease and with safety to himself, transact “conveyancing” on a very large scale.)

83 July 2 1836

The Quarter Sessions

ROBBERY AT LOUGHBOROUGH **William Thompson**, boatman, was charged with robbing his captain, **Edward Garner**.

The circumstances of the case, as given in evidence, were as follows :- On the 5th of May, the parties came by boat from Kegworth to Loughborough ; and at Loughborough lock, the prosecutor placed in the hands of the lock-keeper a £10 note, out of which to take tonnage. The prosecutor received in change a £5 note of the Hitchin bank, and other monies, at which time the prisoner was standing near him. At night, they were together at the Bumper and the Albion in Loughborough. At the latter house, the prosecutor, when paying for some drink, ascertained that his money was safe. According to his own account, and that of a witness, he was sober, or at least very little affected with drink ; but the prisoner declared that he (the prosecutor) was intoxicated. Be this as it may, the prosecutor fell asleep at the Albion and, on awaking, went on board his boat, leaving the prisoner to sleep ashore. In the morning, the prosecutor found that he had been robbed of the £5 note, two sovereigns, three half crowns and six shillings. The cabin door was exactly as he had left it on retiring to bed, and he was satisfied that no person could have entered during the night. Between five and six o'clock he went on shore and sought out the prisoner, to whom he communicated his loss. The prisoner expressed his sorrow, and they went together to the White Lion and had a glass of ale. The prisoner left the room for five or ten minutes, and on his return was buttoning his waistcoat. The prosecutor told him that he had been to the privy. The prisoner said that he had not ; he had been in the stable, talking to the ostler. On the trial, the ostler said that he saw the prisoner go into the privy, and that he was not in the stable. From the White Lion, the captain and his man went to the Albion, where the former charged the latter with the robbery. The prisoner offered to submit to a search, but the prosecutor said that it could be of no use, because the prisoner had hid the money in the privy. The prisoner denied this imputation. Afterwards, the privy was searched, and the half crowns and the note were found. The prisoner was now also searched, and upon his person were found three sovereigns and some silver. The prisoner made no defence, except a general denial of the charge. He called two witnesses who spoke to his character ; but one had known little of him during the last seven years, and the other had only known him four months.

The jury, after a brief consultation, returned a verdict of “Not Guilty”, which was received with much surprise at the barristers' table.

84 August 6 1836

INQUESTS : THREE CHILDREN'S LIVES LOST Two inquests have recently been held before Mr John Gregory junior, when the following facts were elicited. On Friday the 29th ult, Joseph Bruce, aged nearly ten years, and Mary Bruce, aged about five years, the children of Joseph and Martha Bruce of Little Glenn, were stationed on the banks of the Union Canal, about a hundred and fifty yards from the dwelling of their parents, with baskets of green peas for sale to the boatmen. Their mother was with them at a quarter past two o'clock in the afternoon, when she left them sitting near a stile close to a hedge which crosses the canal, and on the contrary side to the towing-path. In about an hour afterwards, she heard a boatman named **Thomas Bexon** (who had in charge two boats for Leicester) calling, "Mistress! Mistress!" She ran to the door, and he said to her, "Come and see to this child which I have dragged out of the cut". The mother hastened to the canal side, and found her child Mary lying on the towing-path, about fifteen or twenty yards below the bridge, quite dead. The baskets of peas were standing untouched. The afflicted mother, bereaved of her girl, began to search for her boy, but he was not to be found. **William Burdett**, of the Aylestone lock house, dragged the canal, but without success. At length, some Blaby men, who were passing by when the lock-keeper was dragging, stripped off their clothes, dived to the bottom of the water, and found the boy near the bridge, about an hour after he was missed. Mr Blunt of Great Wigstone examined the bodies externally, and found no marks of violence thereon ; and it was his opinion, from the distended state of the bowels and the general appearance of the bodies, that death was caused by suffocation from drowning. How the children got into the water could not be ascertained ; the mother said that they were much attached to each other, and she thought that one of them had fallen in and the other, in attempting to save it, had met the same fate. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned", and gave it as their opinion that the deceased perished accidentally, and without the intervention of any other person or persons. The second inquest was held on Monday evening at the Fleur de Lis in this town, on the body of Ann Foulds, aged only sixteen months, the child of a framework knitter residing in Goddard's Yard. At eight o'clock in the morning of Monday, two carts laden with lime, and each drawn by two horses, were coming up Belgrave Gate, the former in charge of John Dunn, the servant of Mr Grocock, the builder. When nearly opposite Dr Hill's, Dunn quitted his proper post to pick up a piece of lime which had fallen off the load, and took this opportunity to ask the driver of the second cart for his lime tickets, which he wanted for some purpose or other. His absence was only momentary, but it was too long ; for the deceased child, and its little brother (about three years old) were crossing the road at that instant, and the deceased fell. The noble animals by which the cart was drawn turned aside, and forbore to touch the prostrate child ; but the near wheel of the cart passed over its neck. The accident was witnessed by several persons, but no one was sufficiently near to save the life of the deceased. Mr Fox, a cooper, opposite whose door the event occurred, picked up the child, and found that it was dead. The Coroner, in his brief address to the jury, said that although blame was attached to the driver, his culpability did not amount to manslaughter ; and a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned, with a deodand of 2s 6d on the cart. The driver was admonished by the Coroner never again to quit his post for any purpose, without stopping his horses. The man said that he had followed his present occupation eighteen years, and this was the first accident with which he had had any connection.

85 August 20 1836

EXCHANGE, MONDAY AUGUST 15 **William Knowles**, boatman, was charged with neglecting the service of his employer.

The defendant stated that he had got drunk on Monday night (August 8), and was locked up in the station house ; and that after his liberation, he went "to see the balloon go off". Subsequently, he idled his time away as well (or as ill) as he could. The complainant said that it was all drunkenness which was the cause of the defendant's misconduct.

The defendant promised amendment, and his master withdrew the charge, with the consent of the Bench.

86 September 24 1836

DIED At Loughborough, - On the 18th, aged 39 years, **Mr Thomas Collings**, boatman. He was well and dead in a few hours.

87 October 1 1836

EXCHANGE, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30 **James Simpson**, boatman, was charged with stealing coal, which Policeman Clark (No 18) found him carrying home at 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The proprietor of the coal was ascertained by Clark, but being from home this morning, the prisoner was remanded.

88 October 15 1836

EXCHANGE, FRIDAY OCTOBER 14 - DEPRAVITY Edward Bishop, a married man, was charged with robbing **Edward Vine**, boatman, also a married man. The two men had been drinking together at the Black Lion public house, and proceeded thence to the house of Mary Ellington in Goddard's Yard, where the robbery was alleged to have been committed whilst the prosecutor was asleep. He called as witness the woman Ellington (whose husband has been transported) and she admitted that he was in the habit of frequenting her house, and of carrying on a connection with her daughter. The Magistrates then dismissed the charge, the Mayor observing that they could not think of sending the case to a jury, as it was not likely that men would give credit to the testimony of a woman who prostituted her own daughter to a married man. The prosecutor and the prisoner were both severely reprimanded for their disgraceful conduct.

89 October 22 1836

STEALING A SMOCK FROCK AT MOUNTSORREL William Stenson was charged with stealing a smock frock, under the following circumstances.

--- **Elmesthorpe** stated that he was at Mountsorrel, on the 28th July last, and left his smock frock in a boat there. On the morning of the following day, witness missed the frock, and afterwards saw it in possession of the prisoner, whom he asked to deliver it up, but was refused. Witness then put the matter into the hands of Taylor the constable. Cross-examined by the Chairman : It was nearly five weeks after witness lost his frock, before he saw it in the hands of the prisoner. Prisoner was not employed in the boat.

Taylor, the Loughborough constable, deposed that he found the frock on the premises of the prisoner.

The prisoner brought witnesses to character, one of whom, who had known him twenty or thirty years, gave him a very good character.

The Chairman observed upon the good character the prisoner had received, and upon his wearing the frock, which he would not have done had he stolen it, passing as he did the prisoner frequently.

Verdict, "Not Guilty".

"See", said the Chairman, "the value of a good character ; you have the look of an honest man. You have a good character now – always keep it".

90 November 5 1836

EXCHANGE, FRIDAY OCTOBER 28 **Thomas Chapman**, boatman, was brought before the Bench, charged with being one of the party by whom the shop of Mr Gee, in the Market Place, was robbed on the 26th of March last. Gray, the sweep, who was transported for the robbery, implicated Chapman by a confession ; and a young man named Coleman, who called at the shop while the robbery was in progress, said that the prisoner bore a general resemblance to a man whom he saw at the door, but he could not swear to the identity. There being no other evidence against him, he was discharged.

91 December 3 1836

DIED On Sunday, in the Friars, **John Parker**, boatman aged 40. For the last twelve years, he had

been a faithful and honest servant to Mr Joseph Gent, coal merchant, Pasture Lane Wharf.

92 December 31 1836

EXCHANGE, MONDAY DECEMBER 26 John Atkinson, cooper, who has lately come from Manchester to reside in Leicester, and is possessed of a little property, was charged with having stolen a tub of trifling value, the property of Mr Swain of Highcross Street, grocer &c. This prisoner, from his appearance, would be termed by the word "respectable" and, in his defence, this was urged in his favour : but the Mayor observed that although it might be unlikely that a man in the prisoner's circumstances should steal an article of little value yet, on the other hand, if such a man were addicted to theft, it was the more important that his conduct should be exposed as, from his appearance and circumstances, he was a more dangerous character in society than the poor ill dressed rogue, whose exterior put the public upon their guard. The facts of the case were these :- On Thursday afternoon, December 22, about three o'clock, a person living opposite to Mr Swain's premises saw a man, dressed in a light fustian jacket, cap, apron and checked shirt, leave Mr S's yard with a tub in his arm. The neighbour informed Mr S of the circumstance ; and Mr S, after looking over the yard and missing a tub, gave information to the police, with a description of the thief's dress, in consequence of which the prisoner was apprehended. His house was searched, but the stolen tub was not found. From the evidence of three or four witnesses, it appeared that the prisoner had occasion to call at the shop of Mr Lewis, a locksmith, the entrance to which is in Mr Swain's yard ; that when he first called at the shop, at about three o'clock, Mr Lewis was out ; and that he called a second time, before four. He admitted that he was at Mr Lewis's shop, but said that it was a little after twelve ; and **Mrs Starkie**, a boatman's wife, declared on oath that he was in her house, in the presence of herself and her husband, from half past twelve till past four o'clock on Thursday afternoon.

The Magistrates, after a long and careful investigation, committed the prisoner to take his trial at the sessions on Monday next. He offered bail for his appearance, which was accepted.

93 January 21 1837

EXCHANGE, FRIDAY JANUARY 20 **Samuel Newbold**, boatman, charged with assaulting Robert Woodham and Joseph Bent, in Belgrave Gate on Monday night, was fined 10s and costs ; in default to be imprisoned a month.

94 January 28 1837

FATAL ACCIDENT On Wednesday night, **William Dancer**, boatman, fell into the canal near this town, and was drowned.

95 February 4 1837

DIED At Castle Donington, on the 11th ult, aged 60, **John Proffit**, boatman. He was drowned through the sinking of a boat at Gainsborough.

96 March 4 1837

DIED At Loughborough, on Monday, **Benjamin Elliott**, boatman.

97 March 11 1837

ADJOURNED QUARTER SESSIONS **Joseph Trueman**, boatman, was charged with stealing some pieces of coal, value sixpence, from the boat of **Mr John Dakin**, at Loughborough in the night of the 11th of January. He was detected by John Richardson, a watchman, in the act of bringing away the coal ; and, when taken before the Rev John Dudley, pleaded drunkenness in excuse for the felony ; but on his trial, he denied the charge and asserted that he was removing the coal from his master's boat. The jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to be imprisoned three months ; two separate weeks solitarily.

Thomas Bonam and **William Barrowcliffe**, boatmen, were charged with stealing a quarter of

mutton from the shop of Mr Edward Tanswell of Swan Street, Loughborough, on the 12th of January. Having been found guilty, a former conviction was proved against them, and they were sentenced to seven years transportation.

98 March 11 1837

COMMITTALS FOR THE BOROUGH SESSIONS **Thomas Willdns**, boatman, charged with bigamy. He pleaded in excuse that his first wife had deserted him 26 years ago, and had been married twice since.

99 March 25 1837

LOUGHBOROUGH THURSDAY MARCH 23 **Charles Bosworth**, boatman, was committed for trial at the next Sessions, charged with stealing coal from **Mr Tunncliffe's** boat, of Sileby.

100 April 8 1837

EASTER COUNTY SESSIONS **Charles Bosworth**, boatman, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing threepennyworth of coal at Loughborough, the property of **Thomas Tunncliffe**. Fined 1s and discharged.

101 April 15 1837

LOUGHBOROUGH THURSDAY APRIL 13 **William Gutteridge** and **William Johnson**, boatmen, were convicted in 5s each and costs for being drunk at Loughborough on Sunday the 2nd inst ; they were also charged with fighting and making a disturbance at the same time, and required to find sureties for their good behaviour for three months.

Thomas Whitcroft and **Thomas Jennings**, boatmen, of the same party, were each ordered to pay costs.

102 April 22 1837

INSOLVENT DEBTORS COURT The Court for Insolvent Debtors was opened at the Castle of Leicester on Monday morning last, before Henry Revell Reynolds Esq, his Majesty's Chief Commissioner for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

John Dennis, publican and boatman, was unopposed and discharged.

103 June 3 1837

DIED At Loughborough on Saturday, **Elizabeth**, wife of **Mr Samuel Revill**, boatman, aged 26.

104 June 10 1837

ANOTHER FATAL ACCIDENT On Tuesday evening, while **Henry Watts**, boatman, was fording the Trent on horseback, near Sawley Lock, the horse got into deep water and began to plunge. The rider became alarmed, and falling into the river, was drowned. The place at which he was crossing was a common ford, but he diverged from the customary track, notwithstanding the warnings of **William Inchley**, another boatman. The deceased was in the service of **Mr Rice** of Gainsborough. On Thursday, an inquest was held at Lockington, before Mr Gregory ; verdict, "Accidental death".

105 July 1 1837

MIDSUMMER SESSIONS **David Jones** and **James Loveday** were indicted for stealing a quantity of hay on the 13th of April, the property of John Spreckley of Freeby. Mr Hildyard appeared on behalf of Jones ; Mr White for the prosecution. This case was one in which the prisoners were boatmen, and were supposed to have robbed a stack as they were on their journey. Jones was acquitted, and Loveday found guilty and sentenced to four months hard labour, one week to be passed in solitary confinement.

106 August 19 1837

Letters

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LEICESTER CHRONICLE

SIR – I have read in the *Leicester Journal* of this day a statement headed “Corporation Corruption” purporting to be a declaration by **Thomas Withers** of Leicester, boatman and higgler, which reflects in the strongest manner upon my character, and in which I am accused of something short of bribery.

It is quite true that, as a private individual, feeling considerable interest in the late election, I waited upon Thomas Withers, to request his vote in favour of the parties whose cause I espoused ; but it is utterly false that I made the statement to him which is charged against me, viz, “that I would set everything straight for him, and that I would indemnify him against the rent due to the Corporation, and would give him what money he wanted to fetch his sons”. It is also quite false that I said “he would lose all his things, and have his bed sold from under him”; and with respect to my having stated that the Corporation would take Withers's horse and cart, I positively assert that I did not at that time know that he had any such articles belonging to him.

Withers *did* tell me that two of his sons were working a pair of boats on the Oxford Canal, and that the blues had engaged to give him money on the following Saturday to pay the expense of fetching them to vote, and that he (Withers) and his sons were to have *two sovereigns each for voting* ; upon which I immediately told him that he had better come forward and vote like an independent man, and say nothing about money.

The above is a plain statement of facts, and I fearlessly throw myself upon the impartial judgement of my fellow townsmen.

I am, Sir, yours &c.

JAMES RICHARDSON

London Road. 18 August 1837.

107 October 21 1837

THE COUNTY SESSIONS **John Marshall** was charged with feloniously stealing a sack bag and four bushels of barley, the property of Timothy Hives of Mountsorrel, on the 24th of January. It appeared that the prisoner was a boatman, and that the boat in which he was lay near Mr Hives's property on the day of the robbery, that he was seen lifting a bag containing something into the boat ; and that a conversation occurred, in which the prisoner's guilt was clearly admitted. The evidence, as the Chairman observed, was a connected link, and there was nothing to invalidate it, except the witnesses to character, and they were rather weak than otherwise. He was found guilty, and sentenced to three months hard labour.

108 January 20 1838

INQUEST On Thursday an inquest was held at Mr George Marshall's, the sign of the Bull's Head at Zouch Mills, in the parish of St Michael, Sutton Bonington, on **Peter Wheatley** aged 22 years, and for the last twelve months in the service of Messrs Pickford, carriers, as a boatman. On Tuesday, the boat was navigated from Shardlow to Zouch Mills ; it was very slippery with snow and ice, and he fell into the water. One of the men on board the boat jumped into the water, but the deceased had sunk and could not be seen ; he then dived, but could not find him ; the water was let off, and he was found in about twenty minutes, but as he was believed to be quite dead, no efforts were made to restore him. Deceased was only married about seven weeks ago. Verdict, “Accidentally drowned”.

109 March 10 1838

Adjourned Quarter Sessions

SHEEP STEALING AT LEICESTER **John Mitchell** was charged with stealing a sheep in the night of the 15th ult, the property of Mr Stephenson of the Abbey Inn, Woodgate ; and **Thomas Cooper**, and **Elijah and William Thorne**, were charged with receiving part of the mutton, knowing it to be stolen. John Nutt, an accomplice in the robbery, was admitted Queen's evidence ; and the prisoners (who were all boatmen) were convicted by the jury. Mitchell, in palliation of his offence,

pleaded that he was in great distress when he committed the robbery ; but it appeared that his privations were owing to his own vices. The Court sentenced him to be transported for ten years, and the receivers to be imprisoned twelve months (one week solitarily).

110 July 7 1838

LEICESTER BOROUGH SESSIONS **James Simpson** and **John Eagles**, boatmen, were charged with stealing a plank on the 31st May, the property of the Union Canal Company. Simpson's account of the charge was that he found the plank in the canal, near to Smeeton Westerby, and he brought it to Leicester, not knowing to whom it belonged ; at Leicester he offered it for sale. The Recorder observed to the jury that nothing had been elicited which affected the prisoner Eagles, and the Jury afterwards acquitted him. Simpson was convicted and sentenced to two months hard labour.

111 September 29 1838

INJURY TO BOATS **William Barnett**, boatman, was charged by another of the same "craft" named **John Joseph Hutchinson**, with having purposely run foul of his boat near the lock at Great Glenn. The case was proved, and Barnett was heard to say, "I'll sink 'em", at the time of the collision. Ordered to pay the sum of £1 13s 11d, including costs 18s 5d.

112 October 20 1838

BOROUGH SESSIONS **George Haywood** (a boatman) was charged with having stolen a pair of trousers, the property of **Robert Thorpe**, and a smock frock, the property of **Joseph Kinsey**. The prisoner and the prosecutors were all in the same boat together ; and the articles stolen were taken to a warehouseman by the former, the prosecutors having missed them. The jury acquitted him.

113 November 17 1838

CAUTION TO POOR WAYFARERS An inquest was held on Wednesday, on the body of a man, name unknown, who had been found dead under the following circumstances :- Robert Musson deposed : I am in the service of William Cayless, who occupies four lime kilns and a plaster kiln, situate in the parish of St Margaret. About a quarter past six this morning, I went to my work at the kilns, and on going to one of the lime kilns, I found one of the workmen, named James Brookhouse, already there. I inquired whether any other of the men were come, and he said they were not. I then looked round and saw a man lying on the kerb within the kiln ; it is about two feet wide, and extends all round within the kiln. I drew him out of the door directly, his feet not being more than a yard from it, and I found that his clothes were burning on his right side, and I got some water and extinguished the fire, but the deceased was quite dead and stiff. He had made a sort of pillow of a pair of old half boots which he had taken off his feet, and his face was turned towards the ground. I have not the least doubt the deceased had gone for shelter in the kiln, from the severity of the night, and that he had probably fallen asleep and was suffocated by the smoke and sulphur which comes up by the side of the kiln very strong indeed ; and that he had died without a struggle because, if the deceased had struggled at all, he must have fallen among the burning lime. I have also no doubt that his clothes took fire after I had opened the kiln door, as the flames then rushed up from amongst the lime. The deceased appeared to be from eighteen to twenty years of age, and had a sort of fustian dress and plaid shirt on, similar to those worn by the railway labourers. It is not at all an uncommon thing for men who are unable to pay for a lodging, or who have been out drinking, to come to the kilns for warmth and shelter during the night. William Cayless stated that he went to look at all the kilns on Tuesday night, and found them all safe. **James Wooley** deposed : I am a boatman in the employment of the last witness. I was at my boat, starting from the lime kilns, this morning about one, when the deceased came to me and asked me whether he could not lie by the fire of the kiln a bit. I told him there was no fire in the kiln holes, and that he had better go and lie by the fire of Mr Webb's kiln. He went down there, and I saw him come back in a few minutes and go to the kiln where he was afterwards found dead, and take the door down and go inside. I went to

light my pipe, and he was then sitting on the kerb inside the kiln, about a yard from the door, with his back against the wall. I said to him, "You mustn't fall asleep", as he would be burned like the chap at Rice's plaster mills, but the deceased said he was not sleepy. He gave no account whatever where he came from, or what he was about to do. He looked to me like a railway labourer, and appeared to be all over trembling with cold ; it was then freezing very sharp, and unusually severe. Sergeant Hague of the police stated that he had been to several places round about Leicester where the railway works are now going on, to endeavour to discover who the deceased was, but was unable to ascertain any particulars respecting him. Witness searched his pockets, and found nothing whatever in them but a small piece of string, and a piece of unburnt plaster ; had no doubt deceased was on the tramp. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

114 November 24 1838

POLICE OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH, NOVEMBER 15 Three boatmen named **Smith, Crook** and **Swan**, in the employ of Mrs Winfield of Mountsorrel, were committed for trial, for having defrauded her by altering the rate of tonnage in their permits.

115 December 22 1838

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, MONDAY DECEMBER 17 **John Barnett** of Atherstone, a boatman, was charged with attempting to rescue Eliza Stringer from the custody of the police on Friday night last, and was discharged on promising better future behaviour.

116 January 5 1839

CHILD MURDER AT LOUGHBOROUGH Another inquest on a new born child was held at Loughborough, before the same coroner, yesterday, when the following facts transpired :- **Thomas Waite**, a boatman, while passing along the edge of a basin near the Duke of York bridge, near Loughborough, discovered something floating in the canal, which he found to be a child. Mr Swann, surgeon, examined the body and found a large wound, evidently cut by a sharp instrument, upon the upper and inner side of the right thigh, extending quite through the principal blood vessels. There was also a considerable contusion on the side of the head towards the back. It was in a dreadfully decomposed state, and had been in the water at least three weeks. It appeared a full grown and large male child. Supposing the child to have been born alive, he had no doubt that the wound upon the thigh would have caused death from haemorrhage. There was no fracture of the skull, and he thought the bruise on the head might be caused by the body coming in contact with something in the water. He thought it probable that the wound on the thigh had been given for the purpose of destroying life. Verdict, "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown".

117 January 19 1839

A BOY DROWNED An inquest was held on Monday at the Railway Inn, near the West Bridge in this town, on view of the body of Edward Bond, aged 11, who was drowned on Sunday last. **Thomas Bond**, a little boy, deposed that he was in his father's boat on Sunday afternoon last, at the Railway Wharf, when the deceased and another boy named Tucker Bond (his cousin) came to see them. They stayed about half an hour, and his mother told him to go home ; they went away for a short time, and then they came back again, and witness's mother was afraid they would get into the water, and took their way as far as the West Bridge. As soon as deceased came back, he began to sway straddle legs on the helm of the boat that was lying alongside the one in which witness was, and nearest the side. He stepped from the boat on to the helm of the next. Witness was in the hatchways of his father's boat, and saw the deceased swaying, and told him to come off or he would be in the "cut", but he said he should not, and directly he fell off the helm, between the two boats, and went under. Tucker Bond and another boy tried to get him out, but they could not, and at last he was got out by a man with a boat hook. Witness was quite sure he fell in himself. Another witness (**Samuel Thompson**, a boatman) stated that he pulled the body of the deceased out of the water with a boat hook, but he was quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

118 February 23 1839

DEATH FROM EXPOSURE TO COLD An inquest was held at Husband's Bosworth on Saturday last, on the body of **John Williams**, a boatman, who was a native of Ilkeston, Derbyshire. It came out in evidence that the deceased was at Kilworth Wharf on Tuesday the 12th inst, with two boats, being captain of one of them, and **William Smith** of the other. The deceased was at work that night and all next day, unloading. He seemed quite sober, and about seven on the latter (Wednesday) evening, he assisted in unloading a boat of Pickford's, when the men asked him to ride down as far as the Tunnel, about a mile off. Whilst in the boat, he drank some gin, and on arriving at the Tunnel, he got out of the boat along with his companions, (Smith and **Griffin**), and proceeded home, but he had not walked two or three hundred yards before he fell down and was incapable of going further. His companions left him on the towing-path, thinking he would follow them, and one of them wished to take a barrow for him, but did not. He was found dead early on the Thursday morning by another boatman, and lying across the towing-path. Mr Peter Colston, surgeon of Husband's Bosworth, examined the body, and said there was no doubt the deceased died of exposure to cold whilst in a state of intoxication. Verdict accordingly.

119 March 2 1839

POLICE OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH, FEBRUARY 21 **Charles Clayton, Richard Savin** and **William Thornton**, boatmen, were fined 2s 6d each and costs for trespassing and stealing turnips growing in a field belonging to Sir George Joseph Palmer at Wanlip, but in default of payment, they were committed for six weeks.

120 March 30 1839

COUNTY COURT **George Gadd**, (28), a boatman, charged with stealing three hundredweight of coals, the property of the Melton Mowbray Coal Company, on the 14th inst, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to seven years transportation.

121 April 13 1839

MARRIED At Loughborough on the 1st inst, **Mr William Neal**, boatman, to Amy, daughter of the late Mr Beasley of the Full Bumper, Navigation Row.

122 April 27 1839

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE. THURSDAY APRIL 18 **William Newton** was charged by **Thomas Stenson** with embezzling the sum of £18, money entrusted to his care as a boatman, which he applied to his own use. An arrangement was entered into for defendant to pay part of the money back, and the expenses, complainant being glad to take a little rather than lose all. The Bench remarked that, although they should be glad if complainant got any of his property again, it was their duty to consider the public, and they should issue a warrant which would hang over him until he had paid the whole.

123 July 6 1839

THE COUNTY SESSIONS **Robert Parkinson**, a boatman aged 36, was charged with stealing a smock frock at Barrow, the property of Thomas Parkins, a farm labourer. Verdict, "Not Guilty".

124 August 10 1839

MARRIAGES On Monday at Loughborough, **Mr William Pilkinton**, boatman, to Miss Ann Davies, both of the above place.

125 October 5 1839

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30

NEGLECT OF WORK **Richard Cross** was charged by his master, **Robert Laurence**, with neglect of work. The defendant had been a boatman and, for alleged misconduct, the master told

him to "go about his business". Defendant took him at his word, and was, in consequence, charged with neglect of work, complainant insisting that he should have given him a week's notice. The Bench, conceiving that there was no ground for the complaint, dismissed the case.

126 November 23 1839

DIED At Loughborough on the 18th inst, **Mr John Whitley**, boatman.

127 December 24 1839

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE, THURSDAY DECEMBER 19 **James Newton** of Loughborough, boatman, was charged by **John Carpendale**, collector on the Melton Navigation, with wilfully breaking a chain at the entrance of the Navigation. Fined £5, but an arrangement with the company recommended.

128 January 18 1840

EXCHANGE LEICESTER, MONDAY JANUARY 13 William Washbrook was charged on suspicion of stealing a watch, the property of **William Fall**. Fall, it appears, was a boatman, and on Tuesday night last, on going to bed, hung his watch over his head. On waking in the morning, he missed the watch. It was found on the person of the prisoner, who was apprehended by Newbold, policeman, at Pailton, Warwickshire. Remanded till Friday.

129 January 18 1840

EXCHANGE LEICESTER, FRIDAY JANUARY 17 William Washbrook, charged on Monday with stealing a watch, the property of **---Fall**, a boatman, underwent a further examination on Wednesday, and was committed to the sessions.

130 February 8 1840

ROBBING A BOAT The following persons have absconded and stand charged by William Herd of Sawley, Derbyshire, with robbing Messrs Pickford's boat at Shardlow of a quantity of wine and six caps ; viz, **Edward Pepper**, boatman of Stoke Bonington, about 23 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches high, dark hair and fresh complexion ; he was dressed in a green plush sleeve waistcoat, fustian trousers, laced boots and a black billycock hat. Joseph Hutchinson, Sawley, about 25 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high, light curly hair, and dressed in a blue sleeve waistcoat, brown cord trousers and a white billycock hat. Robert Thorpe, Bath Lane, Leicester, about 26 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches, and dressed in a sleeve waistcoat, trousers, lace up boots and black hat.

131 February 22 1840

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20 **John Jennings** of Loughborough was charged by the wife of Charles Bowman, under the following circumstances :- The complainant stated that she gave her sister (who is wife of defendant's brother) a lace piece to take in for her, for which her sister received 18s 4d, which she took home and placed in a box with 5s 6d of her own. Shortly after, defendant came in, and took the whole of the money away. Defendant said he had entrusted his brother, a boatman, with £22 to go on a voyage with, but he had come back and said he had been robbed of the whole amount. Defendant having reason to think the money was in his brother's house, went and seized all he could find. It appeared very clearly that the money belonged to complainant. The Bench ordered the defendant to restore it and pay the costs.

132 March 14 1840

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE, THURSDAY MARCH 12 **Joseph Saunders** appeared to answer the charge of assaulting **William Fielding**, a boatman of Leicester. The complainant stated that the defendant was a complete boxer, and took every opportunity of showing his skill in that polite art, and of annoying the other boatmen. The boats of the two parties happening to meet on

the canal, Saunders stopped complainant's horse, then jumped into his boat and violently took the helm from the boy who was steering, and finished the *spree* by assaulting complainant. But, as defendant had begged pardon for his offence, and promised to conduct himself more properly in future, the Bench, having reprimanded him, dismissed the case on Saunders paying the expenses.

133 April 25 1840

DEATH BY DROWNING An inquest was held on Tuesday at Loughborough, before John Gregory jun, gent, coroner, on view of the body of Richard Henson. A boatman, it appeared, of the name of **John Dennis**, on walking along the towing-path from Barrow to Loughborough, was informed by another boatman that the body of a man was observed to float in the middle of the river. On going to the place pointed out, the deceased was discovered and taken out by means of a shepherd's hook. No marks of violence were found on the body. On the Saturday previous he had come out of the Melton Workhouse, and was about to get subsistence from his brother. He had had a fit of apoplexy some time before, which made him rather infirm, and affected his head. Verdict, "Found drowned".

134 May 23 1840

LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE, THURSDAY MAY 21 **William Dennis**, boatman, of Mountsorrel was charged by Joseph Wilmore of the same place with an assault. The case was dismissed, and the complainant ordered to pay the costs.

135 June 6 1840

ALLEGED EXTENSIVE DEPREDATIONS ON THE PADDINGTON CANAL **Charles Holmes**, the master of a packet boat, was charged at Worship Street Police Office, London, on Friday, on suspicion of having feloniously abstracted a quantity of sugar from a hogshead entrusted to him for conveyance to Newport Pagnell. It appeared that Messrs Travers and Co, wholesale grocers in St Swithin's Lane, in execution of an order received from one of their customers, Mr Meadows, a grocer in Newport Pagnell, caused a hogshead of moist sugar to be delivered over to the prisoner to be conveyed by him in one of his boats to that place. The prisoner was the owner of two passage boats. The hogshead reached its destination in safety on the 6th instant ; and the sugar was taken out by Mr Meadows, and portions of it sold to his customers without any particular examination taking place ; but complaints having been made by his servants that some of the sugar which had been used in the house was greatly adulterated, and similar complaints having simultaneously reached him from some of his customers, he examined the sugar, and ascertained that a quantity of sand was impregnated with it. He also found that the bottom of the hogshead had, to all appearances, been recently removed and replaced. It appeared that when complaint was made of this matter, the prisoner took the wharfinger's clerk on board, and ushered him into the cabin, in order to make search. When the party returned upon deck, it was found that two men who worked on board had absconded. The solicitor for the prosecution stated that it had become notorious that similar depredations were perpetually in course of perpetration by boatmen on the Paddington Canal. The prisoner's solicitor applied to the magistrates to admit his client to bail, if it was intended to prosecute the charge further against him. The magistrate consented, and the prisoner was held to bail, himself in the sum of £100 and two sureties in £50 each, and he was then remanded until Friday. *Northampton Herald*

136 July 4 1840

DIED At Castle Donington – On Saturday, aged 74, **Elizabeth**, widow of Mr **Robert Toplis**, boatman.

137 August 1 1840

INQUEST Another inquest was held before the same coroner (J Gregory, jun, gent) at Castle Donington, on the 25th ult, on the body of **Thomas Williamson**. The deceased was a boatman, and

on the 23rd ult, as he was steering on the canal of the river Trent, he was crushed by the arch of a bridge, through which he had passed, and tumbled into the cabin. He was brought to the Infirmary, where he received every attention, but his case being deemed hopeless, at his own request he was taken home, which he had scarcely reached when he died. The injuries were principally of an internal nature. Verdict, "Accidental death".

138 August 15 1840

RUNCORN – NOVEL MODE OF TRAVELLING Lord Stanley, shunning the more modern mode of travelling - "the rail" - or perhaps fearing lest anything serious should befall Lady Stanley, who is at present in an interesting situation, last week adopted a novel mode of transit from London to Lathom House, the seat of Lord Skelmersdale, in Lancashire. Early in the week, his Lordship, Lady Stanley and a numerous suite embarked from Cashiobury Park in two of Pickford and Co's boats – the one an elegantly fitted packet usually devoted to the use of the company when going on business excursions. The only stoppage made on the journey downwards took place at Stoke-on-Trent on Wednesday night, at which place the boats were moored several hours. At six on Thursday evening, his lordship arrived at Preston Brook, Cheshire, the junction of the Trent and Bridgewater navigation. He was here received by Mr Mitchell, the agent to the Bridgewater Trustees, and the principal inhabitants of the district. The whole of the work people belonging to the canal then stationed at Preston Brook turned out to a man, and a very handsome set of harness, with liveries for the riders, made for Lord Francis Egerton's private use, was brought into requisition for the first time. The boatmen and porters drew his lordship's barge the length of the wharf. His lordship stopped at Stretford on Thursday night, and on Friday finished his voyage. *Liverpool Times.*

139 August 22 1840

APPLE STEALING On Wednesday evening last, the orchard of Mr John Ellis of Beaumont Leys was robbed of a quantity of apples by three boatmen, named **John Shabberer, James Harris** and **Joseph Sanderson**. The parties have been apprehended by the County Police, and were convicted in the penalty of 20s each or one months imprisonment.

140 November 14 1840

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 **John Capewell** of Loughborough was charged by **John Leatherland** of the same place, with an assault. The parties are boatmen, and the quarrel arose through each striving to get his boat into a lock first when, after some rather inelegant language on both sides, defendant struck complainant, and wanted him to fight. Fined 10s and the costs.

141 November 21 1840

INQUEST, ILKESTON On Wednesday an inquest was held at Ilkeston, on the body of **Benjamin Watson**, boatman of Loughborough, who fell into Ilkeston lock the day previous, and was drowned. Verdict, "Accidentally drowned". The deceased has left a wife and six children, and his remains were brought to Loughborough for interment.

142 December 26 1840

AMAZONIAN "FLARE UP" On Thursday evening, the 10th instant, two boatmen getting a cosy pint or two after their day's labours at a new beer shop in Castle Donington, remained somewhat later than the wife of one of them thought proper to permit ; she therefore went to fetch her husband home ; but his fellow labourer sneered at him for thus allowing the "grey mare to be the better horse", at which her high Amazonian metal was aroused, and the first thing she laid hold of flew straight at the speaker's head. A second missile, in the shape of a dust pan, was less fortunate, and broke the innocent face of a by-stander, whose constant duty it is to mark the flight of time, viz, the clock. Upon this, there was a "pretty dust in the island" in which the wives of both the two men took a considerable interest, each defending her "ain gude mon", till at last the women came to

blows. "When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war". Now Lancashire ; now Derbyshire ; both counties renowned for their peculiar modes of combat ; the beautiful (!) *purring* of the one, not less effective than the *strength of arm* for which the other is so justly celebrated. After a fistic display of no small skill, to the destruction of sundry gowns, caps and wigs, the husbands parted these she tigers as well as they were able, and lovingly incited them to deeds of arms more congenial to the feelings generally predominant in the gentle sex, to which their garments would seem to entitle them to lay some claim.

143 January 16 1841

DIED On the 8th inst at Castle Donington, aged 73, **Mr John Beeby**, boatman and coal dealer.

144 January 23 1841

A FATHER DROWNED WHEN ENDEAVOURING TO RESCUE HIS SON Last week, **John Halstead**, a boy about fifteen years of age, while in a boat which was near one of the locks of the canal at Ashton-under-Lyne, owing to the slippery state of the boat, fell into the canal. His father, who was on the canal bank at the time, immediately threw off his frock, jumped into the water and endeavoured to get to his son, but being unable to swim got out of his depth. He sunk and rose again two or three times, and then he disappeared altogether. In the meantime the boy clung to the boat, and **Thomas Hill**, a boatman, jumped down from the lock, got hold of him and pulled him out. Immediate search was then made for the body of the father, but half an hour elapsed before it was discovered, when we hardly need add life was extinct. An inquest was held on the body of the unfortunate man, whose name is **Henry Halstead**, on Monday, before Mr Chapman, the coroner, when the above circumstances were stated, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".
Chester Chronicle

145 April 24 1841

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, MONDAY APRIL 19 **Joshua** and **William Baker** were charged by **John Lawrence** with a breach of trust. The defendants were boatmen, and were sent, last week, by complainant into Derbyshire for a boat load of coals. As soon as they obtained them they went to Spalding, and there disposed of them. With the money they purchased potatoes, which they disposed of also. Lawrence got a constable and search warrant, and went to Spalding. On searching the parties, £20 10s was found upon Joshua Baker, and 3s upon the other. The parties agreed to give up the money, on condition of not being proceeded against. The case was remanded to Friday.

146 May 1 1841

DIED At Castle Donington, on the 22nd ult, aged 16, **Catherine**, daughter of **Mr Percival Bosworth**, boatman.

147 June 12 1841

MARRIAGES On Monday at Market Harborough, **George Eaton**, boatman, to Sarah Wilford.

148 June 19 1841

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JUNE 10 **Joseph Simmonds**, boatman of Loughborough, was charged by **Mr Thomas Middleton**, wharfinger to the Loughborough Canal Company, with refusing to comply with a bye law of the above company. Complainant accidentally went to the bottom of the wharf, and found defendant unloading his boat on a part on which the company's men were about to lay the rubbish which they were getting out of the canal. He desired prisoner to desist, and directed him where to lay his cargo, but received nothing but the most virulent abuse in return. Defendant was not aware that he was doing wrong, and was sorry for abusing complainant. Defendant having a large family, complainant wished the bench to mitigate the penalty to the lowest sum. Defendant was accordingly fined 5s and costs.

149 July 3 1841

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, JULY 1 **Joseph Clayton** and **John Clayton** from Ollerton, Northamptonshire, were charged with having violently assaulted the deputy constable of Castle Donington, and also Mr John Pacey, landlord of the Moira Arms Inn, Castle Donington. This was a public house fray : the defendants were boatmen, and made a very lame excuse for their conduct. They were fined £1 each and costs, or two months imprisonment.

150 November 6 1841

DIED At Loughborough – on the 29th ult, suddenly, aged 63, **Mr John Sheppard**, boatman.

151 November 6 1841

LOUGHBOROUGH An inquest was held at Loughborough on the 1st inst, before J Gregory jun, gent, on the body of **John Shepherd**, a boatman aged 63, who fell down in an apoplectic fit just as his boat was entering the Red Hill lock. Verdict, “Died by the visitation of God”.

152 November 20 1841

COUNTY OFFICE SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13 **Richard Row**, a boatman, was charged by Mr Morley, one of the Earl of Stamford's keepers, with setting snares in a field occupied by Mr John Mills of Ansty, on the 12th inst. Two months imprisonment.

153 December 25 1841

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, FRIDAY DECEMBER 17 **John Weston** (a boatman) was charged by Mr Winnington of the Railway Inn, West Bridge, with assaulting him in his own house on Monday evening, the 13th. Defendant had been drinking other parties' ale, and when complainant said it should not be done again, defendant, who seemed to be asleep, sprang up and began to thrash him, and knocked him down. From the effects of that assault, complainant was “as black as a coal” although he made his “egsit” from the room to avoid defendant as quick as he could. Fined 7s 6d, or fourteen days imprisonment in default.

154 January 22 1842

On Thursday, **George Hooley** of Castle Donington, boatman, was brought up before I Hodgson Esq at Leicester, on a charge of stealing a quantity of coal from the wharf of Mr Handley of Blaby, and after the evidence had been gone into, committed.

155 February 12 1842

A SYSTEM OF PLUNDER, to a serious extent, has long existed among the boatmen and others engaged in the conveyance of goods to our wharf. Wines and spirits have frequently been found by the party to whom they were addressed to be deficient either in quality or quantity. A knowledge of these circumstances induced Policeman Izzitt to secrete himself in the wharf yard on Tuesday evening, the 1st instant, when he overheard a curious conversation respecting some article to go by James Tebbutt's coal cart the next morning ; and accordingly, being informed by the watchman about three o'clock in the morning that Tebbutt's cart was gone down the street, he directly followed, taking with him Mr Wright, supervisor of excise. They overtook the cart on Clack Hill, and on inquiring of Dunmore (Tebbutt's man) what he had on the coals, were answered that he did not know. Izzitt then mounted the cart and reached down a hamper, which he proceeded to open, when Dunmore struck him a violent blow on the finger with the coal peck ; his finger was lacerated very much, and though he applied to a surgeon on his return home, he has since been obliged to carry his hand in a sling. The hamper, which they brought away, contained a stone bottle with about five gallons of port wine in it. [How is it that no judicial proceedings have been instituted in this case? We refrained from reporting the circumstances last week, lest we should thereby impede any inquiry that might lead to further discovery.]

156 March 5 1842

ADJOURNED EPIPHANY QUARTER SESSIONS James Meads (18) and Thomas Hallam (19) were charged with stealing a cap, the property of William Clarke, at Loughborough. Prosecutor was employed to take care of Mr Sadbury's house after a sale of the goods ; Meads was employed at the sale, and was in the room where the cap was lying ; a boatman named **Turner** bought the cap for 1s 6d of Hallam. Meads guilty : one months hard labour – one week solitary. Hallam not guilty. A detainer was lodged against Hallam.

157 March 26 1842

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY MARCH 17 **Thomas Beadesley** of Loughborough, boatman, was charged by ---- **Staniforth**, canal keeper, with damaging a lock by opening a gate at an improper time, contrary to the bye laws of the company. On examination, it was found that the offence was against the Act of Parliament for the canal, and not against the bye laws. The case was therefore dismissed, and the informer ordered to pay the costs.

158 April 30 1842

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, MONDAY APRIL 25 **John Cox** was charged with stealing a quantity of railway irons, the property of E M Mundy Esq of Shipley Hall ; the weight of the iron stolen was 13 cwt. Samuel Pegg of the Stirling Castle said prisoner came to his house on Friday last, and asked him whether he wanted any old iron. He said no – he had enough. Prisoner said he was not particular for a month or two for the money. He wanted 3s 3d per cwt ; but afterwards took 3s. He said it was his own – that he had nearly a cwt, and witness agreed to take it. About three in the afternoon, after prisoner had brought the iron, Policeman Haynes came and took possession of the iron as stolen property. Haynes deposed to finding the iron on the last witness's premises. Thomas Baum, in the employ of Mr Mundy, deposed that he had to look after the railroad, which was for coals ; he had not missed any of the rails ; but the rail now produced (part of the iron sold by prisoner) was certainly Mr M's property, as he knew by certain marks. [Mr M's name was stamped upon the iron]. Mr M had not sold any of the old rails ; he would have known of the sale, had such been the case. There were many rails lying about the wharf loose. Prisoner was a boatman. The prisoner said he found the iron in a dyke, and put it into his boat unknown to his companion. The witness Baum said the whole of the railway was in Derbyshire ; he knew prisoner well. The bench directed Mr Charters to send the prisoner down to Derby, that the magistrates there might dispose of the case.

159 May 7 1842

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY APRIL 28 **George Rossel** of Sutton Bonington, boatman, was charged with refusing to leave the line at the Barrow Station, when requested to do so by the Station Keeper. Defendant was in a third class carriage in a train from Leicester to Derby, quarrelled with a fellow passenger, and got to blows just as the train was leaving the Barrow Station. The Station Keeper, hearing the disturbance, stopped the train and caused the combatants to alight ; but as soon as they had done so, they recommenced the fight and refused to leave the line. At length one went away, but the defendant remained abusing the Station Keeper, and demanding to be carried to Kegworth according to his ticket. The defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 20s and costs.

160 May 21 1842

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, FRIDAY MAY 20 Mr Kelly then complained to the Mayor of the great annoyance to which the public were constantly subject every Sunday at the West Bridge, occasioned by a number of boatmen assembling there and stopping up the road ; the language they made use of, also, was most disgraceful. The Mayor said the matter should be looked at.

161 May 28 1842

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, FRIDAY MAY 27 **John Brooks**, boatman, was charged with assaulting Policeman 18 in the execution of his duty on Tuesday week evening at the Bow-bridge Inn. The case was connected with a case from the same place heard last week. The assault having been a very brutal one, defendant was fined £1 ; in default of payment, three weeks hard labour.

162 June 25 1842

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, MONDAY JUNE 20 **Richard Cross**, a boatman, was charged with assaulting Elizabeth Tacey, whose husband keeps the Durham Ox, on Saturday last, because she would not let him have a glass of ale she had brought for some other person. He caught hold of the jug, and struck complainant over the eye and elsewhere several times ; he had often abused her before. Defendant denied the charge, and said complainant first of all struck him, and tore his mouth with her fingers. Complaint corroborated but defendant still said it was not likely he would want that paltry half pint, when he and two others had had *nine quarts* of ale, and they then had a full quart of "theirs" on the table. He called his sister to prove that complainant first struck him with her "flat hand", and then he struck her *not* with his "flat hand". Mr Cape, for the complainant, cross-examined her, but she stuck to her tale "like bricks and mortar", and wouldn't recollect more than she chose. A brother boatman named **Cox** likewise said Mrs Tacey first smacked his brother-in-law's face ; he was quite sure of that – his head was clear, he was not in the least "fresh" ; three quarts of ale were nothing ; he liked "a good sup of ale", it was true. The bench considered defendant had acted altogether most unjustifiable and brutal ; he was fined 10s including expenses ; in default fourteen days imprisonment. Defendant said he would go to prison.

163 July 9 1842

ROBBERY On the 2nd inst, the dwelling house of Mr Joseph Thompson of Little Stretton was broken open, and a canvas purse containing five sovereigns and 12s in silver was stolen from thence. The thief is supposed to be **John Meadows**, alias "Fiddle Chin", a boatman about thirty years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high ; he was dressed in a light smock frock, light cord trousers and a rough black hat.

164 August 13 1842

TOWN HALL, LEICESTER, MONDAY AUGUST 8 John Earl, a youth, was charged with stealing two shirts and a pair of stockings, the property of **John Wordsworth**, on the 28th ult. The articles were produced and identified by the complainant, who was a boatman. A handkerchief of prosecutor's was also produced, which the prisoner had sold to a poor woman named Clements, who said the lad was greatly neglected by his father, whom she knew, and who could well afford to keep him ; the father was a brewer and got good wages, but he had turned his son out of the house four years ago, and the poor lad had been in a very destitute state ever since. The boy, who declined saying anything in answer to the charge, told the magistrates he had never been taught to read and write, or any trade. The poor woman Clements said that, if she were able, she should be most willing to take the boy home ; she had often had him sleeping in her house, and had never missed anything. The prisoner's brother – a very decent looking young man – said he thought his father had not done for his brother what he might – had he done so, he thought his brother would not now have been in this situation ; his father now, however, was anxious to make the matter up, if the parties would agree to it. The Mayor said the prisoner was evidently much to be pitied, and the punishment ought properly to fall upon the father. The prosecutor said he did not wish to prosecute – he only wanted his property back and compensation for his loss of time ; the father had been to him that morning, but would not come up to speak for his son. After again repeating his strong opinion of the father's unnatural conduct, the Mayor told prisoner there was no alternative but to commit him for trial – in prison, however, he would have the advantage of being taught to read and write. The prisoner was crying most bitterly ; it was stated that the father earned 4s a day.

165 September 24 1842

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15 **John Polkay, John Polkay** and **John Whitcroft**, three boatmen, were charged by James Harriman with exposing themselves indecently and wantonly, by bathing in the canal in front of Messrs Warner's mill. One of the Polkays did not appear. They were ordered to pay the costs.

166 October 1 1842

COUNTY OFFICE SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24 John Neal, Samuel Maples, Robert Cooke and John Towers, all of Aylestone, were charged by Benjamin Roberts (*Robinson*), a headborough, with having assaulted him in Mr Handy's public house on the 21st inst, during the time of the "Statutes". The house in question is much frequented by boatmen, and between them and the Aylesford men a quarrel arose, during which Robinson – who had been sitting for some time in the room without his coat, and drinking and smoking with the company – was called upon by the landlord to interfere to restore peace ; but that was a task now beyond his strength ; and hence arose the charge. The case occupied a very long time in its hearing, and the swearing on both sides was so flatly contradictory, that the Bench dismissed the case – at the same time telling Robinson he had not shown himself a very fit person to fill the office of headborough.

167 October 18 1842

TOWN HALL, LEICESTER, MONDAY OCTOBER 3 **William Weston**, boatman, charged with violating the 5th Bye law of the Leicestershire Union Canal Company on the 1st of July last, did not appear ; but the service of the summons, and Weston's knowledge thereof, being duly proved, the case was gone into and he was convicted in the full amount of penalty, £10 ; in default, two months imprisonment. [The 5th Bye law of the Company provides for the slackening of the speed of the barges, and the taking off of the haling horse at a certain distance before reaching a lock : this defendant had neglected to do, and his boat went with such violence as to break the rope thrown round the stopping post, and to run with great force against the lock gates.]

168 November 26 1842

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17 **George Rossell**, a boatman of Loughborough, was convicted in £5 and costs for assaulting Charles Lockwood, sergeant of the night watch, and George Guylee, assistant watchman, while in the execution of their duty.

169 December 3 1842

EXCHANGE, LEICESTER, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25 **Thomas Harris** – for the last three years a boatman in the employ of Mr Ellis – was convicted of having passed off a bad shilling upon an Italian boy in the public house of Mr Cayless, West Bridge, on Wednesday night last. The lad, who gave his name as John Ginorchi, stated through his cousin, who interpreted for him, that he was playing music at Mr Cayless's when prisoner asked him to play him some tunes, promising him a penny for three tunes and a song. When this had been done, prisoner gave the lad a shilling, he giving prisoner 11d in change ; but when the shilling was taken up by the lad, he saw at once that it was a bad one. Prisoner, however, threatened to give him a kick if he said any more about the matter ; so the lad went out and made a policeman understand what had been done to him. Mr Cayless's little daughter corroborated the foregoing account in substance ; and PC42 stated that he found a medal or token, and a good shilling, sixpence and some coppers on prisoner ; the shilling which he had given the lad was evidently a bad one. Complainant here gave a description of the marks by which he knew the bad shilling ; he was evidently a "cute lad". Mr Cayless said that prisoner, up to that time, had always been considered an honest hard working man. Remanded till Monday. [The mint, we hear, do not intend to prosecute.]

170 February 4 1843

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JANUARY 26 **Thomas Attenborough** of Loughborough, boatman, was charged by Charles Lockwood, sergeant of the watch, with being disorderly in the Royal Mail Inn, on Christmas Eve, and provoking Colonel Courtney and others to a breach of the peace. Mr Coope said the soldiers had been driven out of the next door, a public house, because of their conduct, and they then came into Booth's with the intention of making a row. Thomas Breedon was then called by Mr Coope. He stated that he was in the Royal Mail when Courtney came in. The first words he said were that he would run, jump or fight the best eleven men in the company. He appeared quite "toxicated". Witness being there on business, did not stay above five minutes after Courtney entered, and during that time would swear that Attenborough never spoke to a soldier. Newton Hibbert said the soldiers were very annoying, and one took up their ale and drank it ; and also took up the fire irons and commenced "playing away". Complaint dismissed.

171 February 25 1843

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16 **Thomas Newton**, boatman, was fined 20s and the costs for assaulting John Smith (a half idiot) in the Bull's Head yard, and obtaining from him 1s 6d, which he was conveying to a third person.

172 April 15 1843

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY APRIL 6 **John Mathers** and **John Simmons**, boatmen in the employ of Wheatcroft and Co, were charged by **John Gilbert**, captain of a boat belonging to Lawrence, with wilfully running their boat against Lawrence's in the canal leading from Loughborough to Leicester, on Tuesday the 28th of March. Case dismissed.

173 June 10 1843

DIED On Wednesday week, at Sandiacre, aged 60, **James Ward**, boatman of Loughborough.

174 July 29 1843

TOWN HALL, LEICESTER, MONDAY JULY 24 David Sanderson, remanded on a charge of stealing a pair of trousers, the property of a Derbyshire boatman named **Roberts**, was discharged, the owner not appearing against him. Sanderson was told he was entirely indebted to the owner for getting off, since the circumstances were very clear against him.

175 August 5 1843

MIDSUMMER SESSIONS **Charles Church** (34 : read imperfectly) was charged with having, on the 9th of June last, broken into the dwelling house of Thomas Gray at Glenfield, and stolen therefrom a gun, the property of prosecutor. Mr Hildyard appeared for the prosecution, and Mr Wing for the defence. Mary Everard, daughter-in-law to prosecutor, deposed to the house having been securely fastened the previous night, and to finding one of the shutters forced open the next morning, when she saw that one of the windows was broken sufficiently to admit a person. She then called her father. Thomas Gray, the prosecutor, having given evidence as to the state of the house and brewhouse on the morning in question, stated that he missed a single-barrelled gun and a pair of boots. The gun was marked with his name, and it hung from a beam in the tap room. John Everard, the son-in-law, said he was the first person up in the house on the 10th, and found the house as above described. George Johnson, publican, said he bought a gun of the prisoner on the 13th or 14th of June last, at his (Johnson's) house, for 5s and four quarts of ale. Asked prisoner if it was his own, and prisoner said yes – it was all right. [His Lordship : A very general answer in such cases!] Prisoner said the gun came from Kirby, and that a person had offered him 6d to sell it for him. Did not see prisoner give the money to any person, and he drank the ale – or part of it, the rest being drunk by the company in the room. Prisoner then went away. It was night when the gun was bought. [Cross-examined : A man named Fletcher was in the room when the gun was sold.

Prisoner might have given the money to somebody without witness seeing it. Prisoner had offered it for sale to five or six persons outside the house. Saw no name on the gun. Told prisoner, if he found his tale was not right, he should give up the gun to the police. Re-examined : Fletcher took no part in the sale.] George Timson, broker, said he received a gun from Johnson, which he gave to PS Haynes the same day he received it from Johnson, in consequence of what he saw in the newspaper. PS Haynes produced the gun and deposed to the apprehension of the prisoner, who (at the time of his apprehension) said he knew nothing of Mr Gray's house having been broken into ; but afterwards, when near the West bridge, he said, "I know what you mean ; it is one I received from a man named Fletcher to sell". The gun was identified by prosecutor, who pointed out his name. Johnson recalled : Timson was in the room when the gun was sold, and he gave witness the same for it that witness gave prisoner ; witness got nothing by the transaction but the selling of the ale, for which Timson was to pay. Timson was then recalled and questioned by his Lordship as to the share he had had in the transaction, and it appeared he had not yet paid for the ale. This closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr Wing then addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner, who (he said) was a poor boatman of good character, and had received the gun to sell from a man named Fletcher. There was nothing in the evidence for the prosecution to show prisoner had been seen near prosecutor's house. The following witnesses were then called.

Thomas Dulston, boatman, said he knew Fletcher, whom he saw with a gun on the Tuesday night after Whitsuntide on the West bridge, which was near the Swannington Railway. Johnson's house was close at hand. The gun was concealed in Fletcher's pocket, and Fletcher asked witness if he would buy it. He afterwards went into the Royal Oak (Johnson's) where he saw Fletcher again, and was asked by him to drink. Saw the gun when before the magistrates, and thought it was the same as that now shown him. Had not seen Fletcher since. [Cross-examined : Fletcher was before the magistrates and was discharged, though witness told the magistrates all he had now said. Had not seen prisoner and Fletcher together on the West bridge, but saw prisoner at the Royal Oak.] **John Hensworth**, a boatman, was also called to prove Fletcher had asked him to take a gun to pledge for him ; did not do so. Knew Fletcher, but not where he lived. A witness was called as to the character of prisoner.

His Lordship briefly summed up, and said the evidence was, on the whole, in the prisoner's favour, and that he thought the jury would do right to acquit the prisoner. The jury accordingly found a verdict of not guilty.

Occasionally, part of an article appears which is too strange to ignore, and this snippet falls into that category. It is the testimony of a witness in the case of Francis Bailey, accused of having broken into the house of the Earl of Wilton at Melton Mowbray, and of having stolen a number of articles.

Elizabeth Key or Keith (the keeper of a house of ill fame) said : I live at Loughborough, and on the 3rd of April saw Bailey ; thought I had seen him before at Loughborough. He came to my house with Tom Smith about half past 10 as near as I can guess. Bailey appeared to be drunk, but nearly sensible. Agnes Stone was there at that time, and Smith said to me, "Old mother, how are you?" I said, "Very well". Smith said, "Come in, Frank, it's all right ; come in, and sit you down. Let us have something to drink". Bailey flung down a shilling, and the girl went for some gin. Bailey took a watch out of his pocket – it was a small flat one, and the girl said it was a lady's she knew "come where it might from" ; he said, "That be hanged!" There was a long chain to it. Smith said to him, when he pulled the watch out, "D—n your eyes, you ----, what are you doing? Nix my dolly pals! Fake away! Frank, come here!" Bailey went into the kitchen, as I had told Smith I did not like their proceedings, they must leave the house. I heard Smith ask him for "some of those notes" : he said, "Come, Frank! Turn up some of those notes!" and Bailey said, "Here's three". Smith said, "What are they?" Bailey replied that they were Grantham ; and Smith said he wanted two more like those he had in his pocket. Bailey said the other two were Bank of England. They came back into the house, Smith having a bundle of papers in his hand, apparently old notes. I saw him put his

hand in the side pocket of his smock frock. Smith then asked Bailey for more money for gin, and Bailey “hurled down” another shilling – they had half a pint more gin, and the girl also brought in some cheese. I asked Smith who the other man was. He said his name was Frank. I told him I thought there was something wrong about the watch ; but Smith said no – it was all right. Smith then went out, when Bailey said to him, “Don't leave me one inch!” Smith said he would soon be back, and I went to the door to see where Smith had gone, at the request of Bailey, and saw him go to a place a little distance off. While Smith was away, Bailey pulled out a dark coloured purse containing a ring seal &c [enumerating most of the trinkets stolen and which had been identified by his lordship], he also pulled out some silver and gold, and said he should have a £5 note in his pocket besides. He afterwards pulled out a Bank of England note, and another note, a dark coloured one. He also put his hand into his coat pocket and pulled out a bundle of silk handkerchiefs, a coin with Wellington on the side and an inscription on the other side. The girl (Agnes Stone) asked to look at it, but he refused. The girl said, “Fair dos – honour bright”. He then gave it to her, and she said she knew it was Wellington by the “big nose”. (Laughter). Bailey slept at my house that night. [Here, the witness, who throughout her evidence had repeated all the foul words that passed between the prisoners, entered into some further particulars which were rather out of place in a court crowded with ladies.] Smith came about six in the morning to fetch away Bailey. They had some conversation together, and Smith again asked for more notes ; Bailey said, “I can't give you any more ; don't be too brown upon me.” She afterwards saw Bailey, when he had shaved off his whiskers and was different in his appearance.

In her cross-examination, this witness in a most impudent manner bawled out – in reply to Mr Burnaby's questions – I admit my house is what is commonly called a brothel. I have been “arranged” at the bar, but have never been convicted of felony. I have had seven children by different fathers, but it is false that they were buried under the floor of my house, and I was not accused of their murder. I have two children now alive – one of them married, and would be a credit to any man! My first husband was transported beyond the seas, and I am sorry to say he richly deserved it. Those children were buried in the father's garden, and when he sold the property, he had their bodies taken up – for he could not bear the thought of leaving them there – and they have since been buried in the churchyard &c. She had kept a bad-house ever since her husband was transported.

176 August 26 1843

VERDICT OF “MANSLAUGHTER” AGAINST A RAILWAY COMPANY! On the 10th inst, an adjourned inquest was held on the body of a boatman named **Hall**, who had met his death by coming into violent contact with the Somerset Bridge on the line of the Bristol and Exeter railway ; and it appearing that this was not the first fatal accident occasioned by the centre of the said bridge, and that the company had been warned to remove it, the jury very properly returned a verdict of “Manslaughter” against the Directors of the Company, and bound over the witnesses and the relatives of the deceased to prosecute.

177 September 9 1843

CORONER'S INQUESTS (Before J Gregory jun, Gent) At Syston, on the 5th inst, on the body of **John Biddles**, boatman of Neal Street, Leicester, aged 55 years, who was found drowned in the canal at Syston the same morning. It is supposed deceased accidentally fell into the water whilst in the act of undressing to go to bed the previous night, as he was seen sitting on the edge of his boat unlacing his boots, and a person who was lying in the next boat heard a splash or two, but did not get up to see what was the matter as he heard no call for help. Deceased was bringing coals from Derbyshire for Mr S Waters. Verdict, “Accidental death”.

178 February 3 1844

HARBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY JANUARY 30 **Peter James**, boatman of Loughborough, offered himself as security in the sum of £50 for the appearance of Thomas Burton

at the adjourned sessions at Leicester. Burton is now in gaol on a charge of coal stealing at Harborough. Bail accepted, and an order made out for the prisoner's discharge.

179 February 24 1844

LOUGHBOROUGH COMMITTALS On Monday last, **Shadrack Wade** of Mountsorrel, boatman, was committed for trial by the Rev J Dudley on a charge of stealing a hauling line, the property of Mr John Pepper of Sutton. On Tuesday last, the same gentleman committed **Samuel Woodhouse**, boatman, charged with stealing a couple of fowls from the premises of Mr W Trigg of Hoton on Saturday last.

180 May 25 1844

ADJOURNED EASTER SESSIONS

TOWN HALL MONDAY MAY 20 **Thomas Orton** (32, read and write imperfectly) was charged with having, on the 1st of April, stolen a promissory note for £5, the property of William Barsby, his employer. Mr Macaulay conducted the prosecution.

William Barsby, coal merchant, deposed that prisoner was sent with a boat for a quantity of coals from the Heanor colliery on the 1st of April, and had £19, a £5 note and £1 in silver given to him to pay for such quantity as he might be able to buy. When he returned he gave in a bill, dated the 3rd of April, in which the sum paid for coals by him was stated at £20. He also gave in an account of £4 1s 8d charged for tonnages. There was then 12s 9d due to him, but as he owed 17s 4d for coals, that money was stopped, and he was discharged that night, he having several times stayed behind his boat and got drunk. William Smith, agent to the Heanor colliery, deposed that the boat load which prisoner got came to £22 odd ; the bill shown him was not that which he gave prisoner, who paid only £15, saying "master" would send the remainder by the next boat ; witness, therefore, gave credit for the other £7. Also gave prisoner five blank bill heads, which he was to leave, without any figures being filled up, at the different agents on his road home ; that now shown him for £20 he had no doubt was one of those blank bills. Prisoner was apprehended at Langley bridge by PS Tarratt. He now said that he had only given a bill for £15 to Mr Barsby, and not for £20 ; and that only £20 was given to him by his master. The prisoner was found guilty. The Recorder had Mr Smith recalled, and observed to him what a dangerous use might evidently be made of these blank forms which were given to the boatmen : and suggested that all should be filled up. Mr Smith said that would not do, as the Company did not wish all their business transactions to be made public ; but he thought it would be well to adopt some other form of ticket for the boatmen. The Recorder agreed in this, and told the prisoner that his offence was clearly made out, while his defence had only aggravated it. He might have been indicted for forgery, the very offence he had been endeavouring to impute to his employer. He was to be imprisoned for twelve months to hard labour.

181 June 1 1844

LOUGHBOROUGH. COMMITTAL James Read was committed for trial at the next Sessions, on the 21st, on a charge of stealing £17 12s from the person of **Joseph Smith**, a boatman, on the 19th ult.

182 June 8 1844

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY MAY 30 **Thomas Whitcroft** was brought up by Superintendent Hague, charged with having taken a purse and money from **Samuel Revel**, a fellow boatman, while drinking together at the White Lion Inn, Loughborough. Revel having received recompense he refused to prosecute ; they were therefore both charged with drunkenness, and fined 5s each and costs.

183 June 29 1844

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JUNE 20 **W Beers** and **Thomas Allen**,

two boatmen, were fined 10s and costs, or two months in the House of Correction, for doing damage to the property of the late Sir George Crew, by taking away a quantity of sand out of the river, on the 1st of May last.

184 July 8 1844

COUNTY OFFICE, SATURDAY JUNE 29 William Moore and H Garner were charged with having attempted, on the 14th inst, unlawfully to take fish in certain waters in Aylestone, the right of which belonged to Mr N C Stone. Mr Bell appeared for the complaint and Mr Briggs for the defence. William Smith, keeper, deposed to seeing the men draw a net out of a bag they had with them, and throw it in the water twice ; but they pulled it out of the water and put it into the bag again as soon as they saw him. Only one fish was in the net, which was wet, when defendants were taken. Thomas Smith, brother to last witness, corroborated his statement. Mr Briggs, after observing that he hoped the Bench would not convict on such vague charges as “attempting” to do a thing, called **Richard Frost**, a boatman, a coachmaker named Stevenson and a third party, who all deposed that they had the defendants in sight long before Smith came up to them, and were sure they never threw the net into the canal ; moreover, that they had heard one of the brothers Smith say that Garner had got plenty of money, and should “sport it”. Nothing had ever been known against defendants before. They were fined £1 1s each, including costs, in default 21 days imprisonment. Mr Briggs asked if there were any power of appeal, though he did not know it would be of any use ; but the witness Smith had contradicted himself, and he was the only witness on which the conviction was founded.

185 July 20 1844

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JULY 11 **Mr Berrington**, lock-keeper to the Loughborough Navigation Company, charged ----- **Glasbrook**, boatman, with using threatening language towards him on the 15th of June. Defendant was admonished and ordered to pay costs.

186 September 21 1844

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12 **William Hose**, boatman, was convicted of pulling up a quantity of potatoes in a field belonging to Mr W Cufflin of Mountsorrel on the 22nd ult, and fined 2d damage and 2s 6d costs, or one months imprisonment.

187 September 21 1844

MELTON MOWBRAY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 **William Jennings**, boatman of Loughborough, was charged by the collector of duties on the Melton Mowbray Canal with not giving an account of the lading of his boat. Compromised.

188 October 5 1844

COUNTY OFFICE, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28 **George Hodson**, boatman, was charged by **Thomas West**, lock-keeper at Great Wigston, with assaulting him one day last month, because he had called out to him that his boat was likely to injure the lock. Defendant (who had been in prison nearly a week) pleaded guilty. He was fined the complainant's loss of time and expenses, amounting together to £1 6s ; in default, fourteen days imprisonment.

189 October 12 1844

HARBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY OCTOBER 7 Joseph Clarke alias “Spotty Clarke”, a well known character, was charged with stealing a quantity of hay, the property of Mr Nickels of Little Ashby ; and **William Gumley** and **Thomas Newton**, boatmen of Loughborough, were charged with receiving the same knowing it to have been stolen. Committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions ; Gumley and Newton were admitted to bail.

190 November 2 1844

MELTON MOWBRAY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY OCTOBER 22 George Darman, police officer of Melton, was charged by **Samuel Revill**, a boatman, with an assault : case dismissed.

George Smedley, boatman of Loughborough, was charged by Mr David Staniforth with suffering his boat to remain longer in a lock at Frisby-super-Wreake than was necessary for it to pass through ; ordered to pay £1 4s including costs.

191 November 23 1844

INSOLVENT DEBTORS Insolvent debtors to be heard at the Court House at Leicester on Wednesday the eleventh day of December 1844, at ten o'clock in the forenoon :-

SAMUEL STRAW, late of Cavendish Bridge, Castle Donington, Leicestershire, out of business or employment, and then there in lodgings at the Old Crown Inn ; but previously of Cavendish Bridge aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, keeping the inn aforesaid and Coal Dealer ; previously residing at the Old Crown Inn aforesaid, assisting in the public house business ; previously of Derby, Derbyshire, Higgle and Coal Dealer ; previously residing at the Old Crown Inn aforesaid, occasionally Boatman and assistant as aforesaid ; previously of Breaston, Derbyshire, Carrier by Water and afterwards Coal Dealer ; and which said Samuel Straw is the husband of Mary Deborah, the daughter, sole heiress and a Devisee and Legatee of Robert Dawson, formerly of the Old Crown Inn above mentioned, Licensed Victualler and Coal Dealer, deceased, as well as her being his personal representative.

192 November 30 1844

COUNTY OFFICE SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 **Henry Lockington**, a boatman on the Union Canal, was charged with an offence against the Byelaws of the Company. Not appearing, a warrant was issued for his apprehension.

193 March 22 1845

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSIZES The Chief Baron sentenced the prisoners convicted of the Croome manslaughter on Thursday week as follows :-

To be transported for life : Francis Dingley, 34, carpenter ; Samuel Turvey, 37, labourer ; Joseph Turvey, 43, gardener ; and Joseph Tandy, 42, gardener.

To be transported for ten years : Thomas Hooper, 19, labourer ; **William Bromfield**, 18, boatman ; and John Cook, 25, labourer.

To be transported for seven years : **George Brunt**, 18, boatman.

Two years imprisonment and hard labour : Thomas Collins, 20, gardener and William Cosnett, 25, labourer.

194 April 12 1845

LEICESTERSHIRE EASTER SESSIONS

COUNTY RATE – BRIDGES ETC Mr Parsons presented his report as to the state of the County Bridges, from which it appeared that repairs were needed by those in the Lutterworth division to the amount of £82 ; Market Bosworth, £42 ; Market Harborough, £40 ; Melton Mowbray, £72 ; Ashby, nothing ; East Norton – the Billesdon bridge was at present under indictment and needed extensive repairs, which would cost £100 ; and in the Loughborough division, the Barrow bridge called for a large outlay.

For these last named repairs, Mr Parsons stated that he had just received tenders and had not yet had time to examine them ; and he should therefore be glad if two or three magistrates could retire with him to inspect them.

Mr Acworth made some statements about the inhabitants of Barrow having complained that they were only aware of the specifications being ready last week, and wished for certain things to be done to make the bridge thoroughly sufficient for the public accommodation ; that Mr Dudley thought there should be a footway under the bridge, the present plan of horses crossing over being

attended with great inconvenience to travellers ; that the boatmen, in consequence of the delay which now took place, frequently quarrelled and used most horribly profane language, greatly to the annoyance of a worthy Quaker who dwelt close by.

195 April 26 1845

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS THURSDAY APRIL 17 **John Wheatcroft**, boatman of Loughborough, was fined 5s and costs for being drunk and disorderly on the night of the 15th inst.

196 April 26 1845

TOWN HALL, LEICESTER, MONDAY APRIL 21 John Newton was charged by **Thomas Gulson**, boatman, with non payment of 13s 8d wages. The defendant did not appear, but the service of the summons being proved, the case was gone into and an order for payment made.

197 May 3 1845

CORONER'S INQUESTS (Before J Gregory, Gent) At Kegworth, the other week, on the body of **Charles Johnson**, a boatman in the employ of Messrs Tunley and Hodgson, who was drowned in the Soar, a short distance from Kegworth Bridge, on the 26th of March. The water in the Soar was at that time very high in consequence of the melting of the snow, and the deceased had to ride on the horse as the towing path was overflowed. About a quarter of a mile from Kegworth Bridge he got off to open a gate, and then mounted the horse again and started off too hastily ; the horse slipped, both went into the river, and both were drowned. Deceased's companions dragged the stream all day, but could not find his body ; nor was it found until the 17th of April, when **Thomas Green**, his fellow boatman, discovered it floating about half a mile from the place where the accident happened. Verdict, "Accidental death".

198 May 3 1845

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS THURSDAY APRIL 24 **John Longdale**, a boatman, was fined 5s and costs for taking a coney from a small island by the side of the canal in the parish of Quorndon, belonging to Samuel Prior of Mountsorrel.

199 May 17 1845

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS THURSDAY MAY 8 **John Jelley**, boatman, was charged with resisting the parish constable of Sibleby, when attempting to apprehend one of his comrades for taking a coney from Prior's Island, on the 20th of April. Defendant was to pay 5s to the magistrates' fund, and costs.

200 December 27 1845

COLLISION OF CANAL BOATS Wednesday evening last, two canal boats came into violent contact with each other at Churchover near Rugby, when one, containing the boatman, his wife and two children, was capsized and sunk before the children could be rescued. The parents with great difficulty reached the canal bank in safety.

201 January 24 1846

DEATHS BY DROWNING AT THE NORTH LOCK There have been two cases of deaths by drowning at the North Lock this week ; the parties drowned both being in liquor at the time of the accident. The first was a boatman named **Samuel Riley**, aged 22, who with a companion named **Jesse Moore** came from Draycott, near Derby, on their way to London, and reached Leicester on Monday evening. Being weary and wet with their journey, they went to refresh themselves at the Pine Apple in the North, when they drank rum and water and ale for two or three hours till they became fresh. They then started for their boat, but found that it was gone. As this was the case, and as they were both worn out with working two or three nights and days, as well as overcome with drink, they lay down under the gates near Mr Hitchcock's wall, and fell asleep. Moore was at length

awoke by the cold and, getting up, called the deceased to go with him and see where they could get a bed. He then walked on, expecting deceased was following, but almost immediately he heard him call out ; the unhappy man had walked into the water and, as Moore could not swim, he could render no assistance, and deceased sank to rise no more. His body was recovered in about an hour, but he was quite dead. Verdict, "Accidental death". The second case was that of John Hings, a dealer in hosiery, well known in the vicinity of the Globe public house. Hings, it appeared, had been drinking for several hours on Tuesday and, when in a state of intoxication, he was apt to fancy that his way home was directly contrary to where it actually lay ; and thus, it is imagined, he went down the North, instead of the Sanvey Gate, and mistaking the opening by that bridge for Sanvey Gate, walked into the water close by the very spot where the boatman was drowned. His cries for help were heard early on Wednesday morning, but he had sunk before any assistance could be rendered. An inquest was held on the body on Wednesday evening before J Gregory, Gent, when the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death", accompanying it by a recommendation to the Canal Company to put up a gate or door from the corner of the bridge to Messrs Brewin and Whetstone's factory wall.

202 February 7 1846

BOAT ROBBING Last Saturday night, a hauling line, some bread and a stone bottle of ale were stolen from **Mr E James's** boat while lying in Loughborough canal.

HOUSEBREAKING The house of **Mr Bower**, boatman of Loughborough, was entered between the 29th and the 31st ult, during the absence of the family, and some teaspoons, a pair of breeches, squirrel boa, two pairs of boots, a box of dominoes, some lump sugar, tea, soap and other articles were stolen.

203 February 28 1846

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19 **Joseph Glover**, boatman of Loughborough, was summoned for non payment of 13s, a balance of wages claimed by **Benjamin Rose**, his servant. Ordered to pay the same with costs.

William Gutteridge, a boatman from Sutton, was charged with damaging the lock-up at Barrow-upon-Soar. It appeared that the defendant was found drunk and disorderly on the roof of a house or shop at Barrow-upon-Soar between two and three o'clock on the morning of the 12th inst, and Special Constable Jones had put him in the lock-up, and about six o'clock he was informed that defendant had set the place on fire, and was nearly suffocated. As it did not appear that he had done the damage wilfully, he was dismissed on payment of the costs, 4s.

204 March 7 1846

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26 **William Turner**, boatman of Loughborough, was charged with assaulting Superintendent Burdett. It appeared he had assaulted five others of the police force the same day, but this was the only one for which he was proceeded against. Fined £10 including costs and, not having goods to that amount, was committed to hard labour for two months.

205 May 2 1846

AN INQUEST was held on Monday at Barrow, upon **Anthony Toolit**, a boatman, who was drowned near that place on Sunday morning. He was the driver of a boat and, with his companions, had been drinking not long before at a public house near Mountsorrel Lock, but not to excess. After passing through a gateway, the horse went on the wrong side of some posts, and the driver was missed. The line having broken, it was about ten minutes before the boat was got to shore, and the captain, after searching for Toolit in vain by the hedge side, at last found him in the water, quite dead. Verdict, "Accidental death".

206 May 2 1846

MELTON MOWBRAY PETTY SESSIONS, APRIL 28 **William Woodcock**, boatman, Loughborough, was committed for trial, charged with stealing a large piece of deal wood from the works on the railway, near Frisby-on-the-Wreake.

207 June 6 1846

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY MAY 28 **William Woodcock**, boatman, was charged by John Carpendale with passing the Junction Chain in the Melton Canal without paying toll. The clerk to the Melton Canal Company applied to withdraw the case, expressing his intention of laying an information under another clause, by which only £1 could be levied as a fine which, with a reprimand from the magistrates, he hoped would have the desired effect on the boatmen.

208 July 11 1846

BARROW-UPON-SOAR On Tuesday last, a serious affair happened at this place. William Swain of the Three Crowns Inn, and a boatman named **Woodcock**, both of Barrow, having had some words, Swain actually bit the thumb off Woodcock's hand, which it is feared will prove very serious to Woodcock.

209 July 26 1846

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JULY 16 John Wade of Loughborough, charged with assaulting **Benjamin Watson**, a boatman, at the house of Henry Greaves on the 2nd of June, appeared to answer the charge. Complainant not appearing, defendant was allowed to settle the matter by paying the expenses.

210 July 26 1846

HARBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY JULY 21 **Samuel Beswick**, boatman of Sutton Bonington, was charged with non payment of wages to James Martin of Kibworth Lock house, and was allowed to arrange.

211 August 1 1846

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JULY 23 **Jonathan Squires**, a boatman from Leicester, was convicted of being drunk and disorderly at Loughborough, and was fined 5s and costs.

212 October 17 1846

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY OCTOBER 8 **Mr Thomas Bowen**, boat owner and licensed victualler of Loughborough, and **Thomas Pedley**, boatman of the same place, were charged with breaking five panes of glass in the windows of the dwelling house of Mr Nash, agent of the Loughborough Navigation Company. Mr Nash deposed that between twelve and one o'clock on the morning of Sunday the 13th of September, he was awoke by the window of his bedroom being broken. Immediately afterwards, a window in another room was broken. Case dismissed.

213 October 24 1846

COUNTY OFFICE, SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 **Thomas Bedoe** of Nottingham, boatman, was charged with opening the Birstal lock on September 12 and drawing off the water from the Leicester Navigation. Henry Flowers, servant to Mr Clark of Birstal Mill, said that on September 11th, at night, his master told him there were some boats. He went down to see to them, and found the boat belonging to Thomas North, Nottingham, fast in the tail of the lock. A fly boat had gone up, and the men belonging to Mr North's boat had flushed the water out of the lock to get their boat at liberty. They then were filling the lock again for the purpose, and he told them they must not. He

did not know how many times the water was wasted in that way, but the water of the mill being drawn off, the flush of it, with a flush caused by another boat going down, set the boat at liberty. The water was flushed at least three times to his knowledge. When he went to the lock about five in the morning, there was one paddle about half way up filling the lock. He shouted to the men and they put it down. Afterwards he found they had both paddles up and were filling the lock again. The men said they would not have their boat kept there for a "sup of water". Mr Clarke stated that the defendant came to him to make it up, but he told him it was then in the hands of the magistrates. Allowed to arrange.

214 October 24 1846

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY OCTOBER 15 **William Gutteridge**, boatman of Sutton Bonington, was charged by Thomas Truman, parish constable of Quorndon, with committing a breach of the peace at that place on Friday last, and with assaulting him. It appeared from complainant's own statement that he saw no breach of the peace committed, and that he was not assaulted, although he took Gutteridge into custody illegally. Discharged.

Gutteridge was then charged under a warrant with assaulting and using threatening language towards **Mary**, his wife, on Friday last ; and after a lengthened hearing – during which defendant charged his wife with not only selling off all his property while he was away, but with other conduct far more disreputable – he was ordered to find sureties for his good behaviour for three months.

215 November 7 1846

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY OCTOBER 29 **James Strutt**, a boatman from Derbyshire, was charged with an offence against the Bye laws of the Melton Canal. It appeared that defendant had been a few miles beyond Melton up the Oakham Canal, with a cargo of iron for the railway, and only paid Mr Carpendale the tonnage for going to Melton, by which the Navigation Company were defrauded of nearly £2. Mr Coope pleaded that defendant was a stranger there, and did not know where the Oakham Canal commenced, or that he should have to go up it. Convicted, and fined in the mitigated penalty of £2 10s and costs ; Mr Dudley intimating that if any boatman was convicted of a similar offence in future he would be fined the full penalty of £5.

216 November 21 1846

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 Jane Smith, Mary Smith and Rose Hannah Hunt were brought up on a charge of picking the pocket of a boatman named **Whitcroft** at a house of ill fame in Loughborough on Wednesday evening, and were remanded for further examination.

217 January 30 1847

HARBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY JANUARY 19 **Thomas Rule**, a boatman of Quorndon, was charged with stealing two sheets, the property of Mrs Rhodes, at the Harborough Wharf, and also a quantity of linen, the property of the executors of the late Mr Furnival of the Union Inn. Committed for trial.

218 May 1 1847

DEATH FROM DROWNING AT FOXON An inquest was held at Foxon on Monday upon **Abraham Hoare**, a lad of nine years old, the son of a boatman, who had been drowned on Saturday night at the fourth lock, having fallen in, it is supposed, through sleepiness. He had been called out of the boat cabin about nine o'clock to lead the horse, which was usual on passing the locks, and when his father called out for the horse to go on, was found to be missing. A search was made, and he was found in the fourth lock and got out ; but he was then quite dead, and the means of restoring animation, though used, were ineffectual. Verdict, "Accidental death".

219 May 15 1847

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY MAY 6 **Thomas Wogdale**, boatman of Loughborough, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game on land in the parish of Prestwold, was discharged and allowed 1s for loss of time, there being no evidence of an intention to take game.

220 June 12 1847

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JUNE 3 **James Jarvis Greasley**, boatman of Mountsorrel, was charged with neglecting to maintain his wife, who had thereby become chargeable to that parish. Defendant said his wife and child were very ill ; he had to pay two sitters up every night ; and had pledged almost all of his own and his wife's clothes to maintain his family. Mr Cuffling (one of the principal ratepayers of the parish) considered they were using defendant very hardly ; his wife was in such a state she was not expected to live ; and the man had behaved himself as well as he could be expected to do. The relieving officer said as a servant of the Board of Guardians he had to obey their orders. Mr Acworth said he would not have brought such a case for all the Boards of Guardians in the world ; he did not think the Board had any right to send such cases there. Case dismissed.

221 June 26 1847

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JUNE 17 **W Revill**, boatman of Loughborough, was summoned for riding in one of the Midland Railway Company's carriages without paying. Adjourned for a week.

Francis Kilburn and **John Jelley**, two boatmen, who were charged with stealing three sovereigns, a pair of female's boots, four pawn tickets, and pocket book and four pair of knitted stockings from the house of Rosannah Hunt, were discharged.

222 July 3 1847

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JUNE 24 **William Revill**, boatman of Loughborough, charged with attempting to defraud the Midland Railway Company by riding in a carriage between Syston and Loughborough, on Saturday the 29th of May, without paying his fare, did not appear. Defendant had admitted that he got in at Syston and offered to pay the fare, but as another boatman who had been in the same carriage with him had jumped out just as the train was stopping and the porters were gone after him, Mr Carr considered it was the intention of both to defraud the Company, and would not take the money, but laid the matter before the directors, who gave instructions for proceedings to be taken against him. Convicted and fined 40s and costs.

223 July 31 1847

MONDAY JULY 26 **James Brooks**, a boatman, was charged with wilfully obstructing the navigation of the Leicester and Northampton Canal. The defendant was master of two narrow boats going down the canal, and heard his men drive their horses furiously in order to pass a barge and get to a lock first. One of the boats did so and entered the lock, which was then occupied by a boat of Pickford's going up. Mr Church requested him to take his boat out in order to let Pickford's boat out, but he refused, and detained it there three quarters of an hour. Fined 10s or in default fourteen days imprisonment. The defendant was also charged with furiously driving his horse on the same occasion. Sergeant stated that he saw the defendant flogging his horse, which was then galloping. The horse was also thrown on its knees more than once. The case not being pressed, no fine was inflicted.

224 August 7 1847

TOWN HALL, LEICESTER, FRIDAY AUGUST 6 A young boatman named **Thomas Moore** was charged with indecently exposing his person with intent to insult a female. He was sentenced to six weeks imprisonment.

225 September 4 1847

MURDER AT TIPTON At Wolverhampton on Friday, a man named Malony, who had been in custody on suspicion of being concerned in the death of a boatman named **Thorpe**, was fully committed for trial for the offence.

226 September 11 1847

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 2 **Edward James**, a boatman of Loughborough, charged with stealing three young fowls, value 3s 6d, the property of Mr T Dewberry of that place, was committed for trial at the sessions.

227 October 9 1847

HARBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS TUESDAY OCTOBER 5 (Before the Rev J Wetherall and the Hon R Watson). William Hughes v **James Brookes**, boatman. When this case came before the magistrates, it appeared that special constables did not serve a duplicate of the summons on Brookes, and as he had not one, the case could not be proceeded with.

228 December 4 1847

MELTON MOWBRAY PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 23 **Henry Wogdale**, a boatman, was committed to take his trial at the next sessions, charged with stealing a truss of hay from a shed in the yard of Mr Charles Cawthorne of Melton, on Saturday night.

229 December 4 1847

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25 **John Draper**, boatman of Loughborough, was charged with assaulting **George Sherwin**, boatman of the same place, on the 20th day of October, whereby one of his legs was broken. Mr Inglesant, for the defence, said a "stand up fight" took place between the two on the night in question ; that Draper was sorry for the result, and sent half a crown to Sherwin's house, which sum (by the advice of Mr Judd, relieving officer) had been returned. The Bench recommended defendant pay 5s to complainant, and the costs, which we believe he agreed to do.

John Polkey, William Polkey, Edward Polkey, John Marshall, William Wade, Frederick Smith and Thomas Maltby, boatmen and navvies, all of Loughborough, were charged with assaulting Bartholomew Sheridan, private of the Fourth Royal Irish Dragoons, now stationed at Loughborough. The defendants (except William Polkey, who did not appear) were convicted, and Marshall was fined 10s and costs, in default one months imprisonment ; the other defendants 5s and costs each, in default fourteen days imprisonment.

230 December 11 1847

YOUTH DROWNED On Monday, an inquest was held at Birstal upon a youth, whose name was unknown, and who had been drowned on Sunday morning by falling into Birstal lock. It appeared that he had sought employment in a boat when in Derbyshire, and though used to boating had not been on the Leicester Canal before. He would not give his name though repeatedly questioned, but in Barrow told the captain that he came from Burton, about seven miles below Nottingham. When the boat was about a quarter of a mile from Birstal lock, it being then about six in the morning, he was sent on to get the lock ready, but when the boat got up it was found that he had fallen in, and some boatmen were searching for his body. It was not found, however, till the lock was drawn off, and then life was extinct. The lock was stated to be not at all dangerous, but it was probable that the deceased was deceived by a large fire which was burning in a boat that had entered the lock, and walked into it without being aware. Verdict, "Accidental death".

231 January 6 1849

COUNTY COURT, LEICESTER DISTRICT Mawby v **Pearsall** Debt £2 5s for warranty of a mare. Mr Sculthorpe appeared for plaintiff and Mr Bell for the defendant. On the 16th of

December, the plaintiff purchased a mare of the defendant for £5 5s, who said if she were not sound he would return the money. When the plaintiff got about half a mile on the road, he discovered she was a “roarer”, and he was obliged to return to his inn, when he was told it was expected he would return when he started home. He found the defendant, who said that the mare was not his, and that he knew she was not worth so much. The defendant ultimately said he would give £3 for her, which he did, and the plaintiff now sought to recover the balance. Mr Darnell stated that he was with the plaintiff when he found the defendant and some other boatmen at the Royal Oak, who laughed at the plaintiff for being duped. It appearing that Mr Mawby had consented to take £3 for the mare, the plaintiff was non suited, his Honour remarking that if the plaintiff had not consented to have sold the mare, the defendant would have been liable to forty days imprisonment for fraud.

232 January 13 1849

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JANUARY 11 **Thomas Whitcroft**, boatman of Loughborough, who a fortnight ago stood charged with assaulting Mary, the wife of Webster Brown, and damaging her dress, and whose mother swore positively he was not from home from the Friday night to the Monday morning following – the offence being on the Saturday night – caused an adjournment of the case for further evidence, again appeared. Thomas Harrison being called, swore most positively he had known defendant for two years past, and that on the night of the assault he saw him near to the spot where it was committed ; that although he (witness) did not see the assault he saw the defendant there, and heard persons talking about the offence, who said it was the defendant who had done it. The Bench convicted him of the damage and fined him 6d, the amount thereof, and directed him to make compensation for the assault, in which case they would allow the proceedings for the assault to be stopped. Whitcroft, we believe, gave Mrs Brown 10s and paid the costs.

233 January 20 1849

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JANUARY 18 **Jas Marriott**, a boatman, was charged by **John Hutchinson**, of the same craft, with assaulting him on the 23rd of December last. There was a quarrel about passing a “lock” ; defendant being under the influence of liquor was outrageous at the time and used considerable violence towards complainant. Fined £2 and costs, or six weeks to the common gaol.

234 January 27 1849

SANITARY CONDITION OF LEICESTER

PUBLIC INQUIRY On Thursday, W Ranger Esq, the superintendent inspector appointed by the Board of Health to inquire into the sanitary condition of Leicester, attended at the Town Hall to receive evidence upon the subject.

There were present among others, the Town Clerk, Dr Barclay and Mr Buck, the Sanitary Medical Officers, Dr Shaw, Mr Flint, the Corporation Surveyor, Mr T Millican, one of the Vice Chairmen of the Board of Guardians, Mr C Smith of the firm of Miles and Smith, Mr C C Macauley, Mr B G Chamberlain, Clerk to the Board of Guardians, and Mr C Goddard.

Mr B G Chamberlain presented a list of the places in which epidemic diseases were prevailing, which had before been given to the Sanitary Medical Officers.

Mr Ranger said that he appeared as the agent of the General Board of Health, in pursuance of the notice which had already appeared, in order to institute an inquiry into the sanitary state of the town. The order to be pursued was, first, to inquire into the localities where epidemics and endemics prevailed. One of the best tests of the sanitary condition of a district was furnished by infant mortality, which was independent of occupation and many other causes. He found that of infants, in 1841, one in eight died at Billesdon, and one in six in Leicester. Thirty percent died before the age of five years in the less unhealthy districts, and in the others 43 per cent. The mortality in 1841 was 1358 in a population of about 50,000, or about 1 in 36, while at Billesdon, the mortality was only in the proportion of 1 in 91. The difference of the average duration of life in the

two places was about twelve years in favour of Billesdon. If they took the money statistics of the question, according to ordinary computation, the loss of labour amounted to about £90,000. It was not intended to give undue importance to that fact ; but that there was something due to it would not be denied. Those facts he had mentioned would alone give occasion for inquiry, but an inquiry had been called for by an enlightened public, and that inquiry was to be quite open and transparent to everyone. He might call attention to what would be the ordinary course of working out remedial plans in this town. Every district would be protected by the general board (which, he was permitted to say, took particular interest in the present inquiry), and would not be called upon to contribute more than a fair share of rates, as compared with the advantages to be derived by it from the plans suggested. Those who participated in the benefits would be the parties to pay for them. That of course was taking the worst view with regard to charges. He was not in a position to state what the charges would be in this town, but he had found that in other places he had been enabled to suggest plans by consolidation and diverting expenditure, so as to give the benefits of the Public Health Act without any additional cost. That arose from taking into account the unproductive labour of the poorer classes in fetching water, and other matters, and also the diverting other expenditure, by inducing the poor to render their houses more comfortable and better ventilated, and by the better ventilation of streets as well as houses. He could not apply these observations to this town until he had been over it. Their instructions were to pursue the most rigid economy in point of expenditure, while their plans were to be on the broadest possible basis. The preliminary inquiry would be based upon the density of the population as compared with the area which it occupied. He should be glad to receive the testimony of the medical men present with regard to the particular localities which required his attention, and they might also afterwards furnish, if they pleased, statements in writing. After receiving statements, either for or against the inquiry, he should proceed to inspect the different localities externally and internally, with regard to want of sewerage, ventilation of courts, allies and streets, ventilation of abodes, over crowding of lodging houses, &c. In visiting the last he need only be accompanied by the police inspector. One other observation he would take the liberty of making – though he might complete part of the inquiry in the present three days, if he found it necessary to revisit the town a public court would not be needed, as his object would chiefly be to consider the drainage and supply of water. If gentlemen would communicate to him, in writing, their communication would be duly weighed, and he would be open to communications up to the time of making the report. When made, it would be transmitted to the town, and they would have a month allowed for its consideration, and an opportunity of making what observations they thought proper. Mr Ranger then proceeded to receive the following evidence.

Dr Barclay handed in two reports which were presented on February 20 1847 and November 22 1848, to the Town Council. Also a list supplied by the sub inspector of places requiring the personal visit of the Commissioner. He then stated that a great number of nuisances of all descriptions had been removed under the Act for that purpose ; the number of proceedings having been 630. Fever, erisipelas and smallpox were the prevalent diseases of the town. Fever had not prevailed to a great extent in the lowest parts of the town, but in the higher uncultivated parts, where there had been a great many pigs kept. Erysipelas had prevailed to so great an extent in the Infirmary and Fever House that they had been obliged to be shut up. The administration of opium to children was very common among the lower classes. Factories were few, and well ventilated. The operatives were generally employed at home, but the rooms in which they worked were very close. Some houses were built back and front or back to back, in which cases there could be no ventilation. The crying evil was the privies and cesspools, which were many of them constructed of only single brick and with bad cement, so that the neighbouring soil was completely saturated with excreta. The cesspools were generally uncovered so as to expose a large evaporative surface to the air, rendering it very unwholesome in summer. The system of emptying them was also very bad. The small slaughter houses scattered through the town were mischievous, the blood and swillings having in some cases to travel a quarter of a mile in the open street. The blood was also kept for swine, and thus involved the keeping of pigs. Offals and horse flesh were also boiled down for swine, and knackers' yards existed in several neighbourhoods, where the smell of boiling down was

much complained of.

Mr C Smith stated that it was a common custom in this town, sanctioned by builders and architects, to dig down to the springs of water and let the privies drain into them, to avoid the necessity of a cesspool. Such things had been done in the centre of the town, and in consequence the water in the locality was completely poisoned. There was no building act in the town. Near his own residence in Southfields Place, the main drain on being opened was found to be choked up with the refuse of other drains. He was obliged to have stench traps on his premises, and to employ a person frequently to clean them, which was attended with some expense. The stench arising from the gratings in the streets was very offensive.

Mr C Macauley expressed his gratification at the subject being taken up, and his hope that something effectual would be done, and that drainage if effected would be on scientific principle ; as in other towns, which had not been so afflicted before, fevers had broken out and continued upon the opening of under drainage. Within his recollection, Leicester had been one of the most healthy towns in the midland district, and its mortality was then below the average. The town ought to be very healthy, as it stood upon a much larger area than usual, in proportion to the density of the population.

Mr Ranger observed that the measures which he should recommend would be on the broadest possible basis, and that everything should be embraced which was found necessary. It would be so both for his own reputation and that of the Board of which he was the officer.

Mr Macauley believed that all the small yards leading out of the great streets were in a state most prejudicial to health.

Dr Shaw stated that the town was quite free from cellar dwellings, and had a low average of population, about 4 1/2 to each house. The houses were on the average two storey houses, most of them with courts at the back, and generally only inhabited by one family. The main cause of the great mortality was the defective sewerage, which had originated in piecemeal operations. No absolute engineering difficulty existed against a perfect system of drainage, but it would be necessary to go beyond the limits of the town. Stench traps had fortunately been established to some extent, but not sufficiently, in the present drains. There were certain local reasons which in his opinion would prevent the town having such a favourable rate of mortality as other towns, and these were owing to the state of the river for miles above and below the town. The valley in which Leicester lay was open to the north east and south west, and owing to the stoppage occasioned by mills and the canal, after every quick rain, the district became inundated, which would cause the production of immense quantities of miasma. The ventilation was obliged to come in the direction stated, because of the hills of Charnwood Forest on one side, and the oolitic hills on the other, and the consequence was that the miasma was necessarily driven upon the town. Another point to be taken into consideration should be that some restriction should be placed on the mode of building in the town, as the fever house was furnished with its inmates not from the central and dirty districts of the town but from the newly erected portions where the humus had not been removed previous to building. Over the river in Holme Street and that neighbourhood, the drains were mere receptacles of the back water of the river. The lodging houses, like those of all other towns, were in a very filthy state, and he wished that orders were never issued by the Guardians to put paupers in them.

Mr Millican stated that the Guardians never sent mendicants nor their own poor to those places, but that if parties were found in them requiring relief, they were not removed.

Dr Shaw stated that he had heard that the smallpox, owing to one case having been left in a lodging house, had spread all over the neighbourhood, and that forty one deaths might be distinctly traced to that cause.

Mr B G Chamberlain stated that the presence of parties receiving relief in lodging houses arose not from destitute parties coming into the town, but from parties who had money to pay their own expenses taking lodgings at these places and remaining there until they were taken ill and then requiring relief. The destitute vagrants were provided for in the temporary workhouse.

Mr Ranger observed that the common lodging houses would all be put under certain restrictions.

Dr Shaw considered that the town was very deficient in the supply of its water, which would be

wanted especially to flush drainage.

Mr Ranger said that the principle upon which he and his co-inspectors would act, would be a constant supply of water and constant drainage, which alone could be effectual in preventing mischief.

Mr Buck presented a statement of the mortality in 1841, 1846 and 1848. In 1846 and 1847, fever prevailed to such an extent that the Board of Guardians were obliged to open an additional fever house. The mortality from diarrhoea amounted to 178 in 1846, which was a very great number, considering that in 1848 only 81 were registered. Much of this ought to be considered as fever, and this epidemic disease excited much attention at the time and caused the register to be carefully analysed. The typhus fever of the district differed much from that of London, its character being ulceration of the intestines. He was inclined to attribute much of these epidemic diseases to the imperfect drainage, the demoralised state of the lower classes, and the absence of personal cleanliness occasioned partly by the scarcity of water. Second and third rate sewers were not of sufficient size to carry off the drainage, and when opened were found to be nearly full of black concrete, so hard as to require the use of the pickaxe to remove it. One opened in Humberstone Gate in 1847, near his own residence, was full of this concrete, hard as chalk at the bottom and becoming gradually softer to the top, which rendered the sewer nearly useless, as the rain water, being unable to find its way through such an apology for a sewer, was obliged to seek its level in the streets and cellars of the inhabitants. In the neighbourhood of this very sewer, two large steam engines discharged an immense quantity of water into an independent channel at right angles, which emptied itself afterwards into a sewer near the canal, which anomaly showed the necessity of some scientific surveyance. In 1845, the neighbourhood to the extent of several hundred yards was under water for several hours ; and in 1846, fever of a very fatal character prevailed there. The smallpox, a disease whose appearance was particularly obnoxious to medical men and society generally, originated with the case of a boatman, who was reported to the Guardians as sick in a boat on June 19 1848. He was taken to a lodging house, No 1 Abbey Street ; and the disease spread thence from house to house to No 15, and extended thence from street to street, Green Street, Garden Street and Orchard Street. The registers of mortality furnished forty one deaths from that period to January 24 1849. A great amount of indifference existed among the poor with regard to vaccination, and a great repugnance to medical attendance also was felt, from whence originated the great infantile mortality.

Mr Millican admitted the defective state of the drainage, but considered that there were many sources for the supply of water, such as steam engines and other means. There was a steam engine in King Street throwing up 7,000 gallons per hour for ten hours a day, and two in Charles Street throwing up 5,400 gallons. In proof of the ample supply of water from springs, he had a well in his property adjoining these engines, only 13 feet deep, and had never been short of water since he had held the property. He had also houses in Queen Street, where the springs were so powerful as frequently to rise into the cellars. The water was undoubtedly rather hard. The culverts being near the surface, he had been obliged to sink a well, at a cost of about £10, to drain the cellars, as these had frequently to be pumped out. There were many other steam engines than those he had mentioned, placed in situations where the water might be rendered available. He owned and had control of 106 houses, which were furnished with 58 pumps, and he had no doubt that the tenants would state that they were well supplied with water. The pumps and wells might cost about £10 each, and about the same sum might be expended annually for repairs. The rents averaged from 1s 3d a week to £30 a year. The houses were not supplied with water closets but had open privies. A boiling house existed close to some of his premises, and though it had been certified it had not been removed, and fever had been the consequence in the neighbourhood.

The Town Clerk explained that this case could not be dealt with under the nuisance removal act, as there was no accumulation of noxious matter which could be certified.

Mr Millican stated also that he had been at some expense upon cesspools during the year.

Mr Goddard stated that his object was merely to express his opinion that the present mode of getting rid of filth by culverting was very imperfect, and that he would recommend all the drains to

be filled up, as they were at the time when the town was more healthy than at present.

Mr Ranger considered that the expression of opinion was a mere wasting of time while gentlemen were in attendance to show him over the locality, whose time was valuable. He then proceeded, accompanied by the Sanitary Medical Officers, to inspect the places, a list of which had been handed to him.

The following is a list of the places visited by the Superintending Inspector, Medical Sanitary Officers and others :- Cox's Street, Redcross Street, Cumberland's Yard, ditto, Wright's Yard, ditto, Hodson's Court, Dun's Lane, Great Holme Street, Augustine Friars, Black Friars, ditch at the bottom of Sarah Street, Hewling's Yard, All Saints Open, Johnson's Yard, Sanvy Gate, Elbow Lane, Durham Street, Olive Hill, Needle Gate, Pares's Street, Watling Street, Burley's Lane, Hull Street, Royal East Street, Pork Shop Yard, Belgrave Gate, Public Wharf, Britannia Street, Mill Street, Russell Street, Denman Street, Wheat Street, Lewin Street, Metcalf Street, Bedford Street, Eaton Street, Providence Place, Sanderson's Yard, Wheat Street, Pike Street, Wharf Street, Dover Street, Nag's Head Yard, London Road, Calais Hill, Green's Lane.

Yesterday Mr Ranger resumed his sitting in the Town Hall, and previous to receiving evidence had some conversation with J Ellis Esq respecting the probable outfall of the main sewer. He then examined H Paget Esq of Birstall at considerable length, and received from him much valuable information as to the subsoil and capacity for drainage of the lower parts of this locality, as well as the probable value of the manure of the town, the meadow crops, rents and other matters relating to the neighbourhood. Mr Ranger then stated that after receiving evidence from any parties who chose to offer themselves, he should visit those localities mentioned by the medical officers which had been omitted on the preceding day, the factories, the Union Workhouse, the schools, and other places where ventilation was considered of importance, and should also proceed to the outfalls of the sewers.

Mr W Lewin stated that his opinion was that there was no necessity for any waterworks in Leicester except for flushing the sewers. There was plenty of water for domestic purposes supplied to every dwelling, hard and soft. The cooking water was generally supplied from wells, and that for washing from cisterns fed by spouts in the roofs. He had been for about thirty years occupied in the plumbing business, and never knew any deficiency of water. The general custom was to have two pumps to every five houses. The hard water was principally filtered by gravel and springs and the water, except in the conduit field, lay nearly to a level. The conduit field was a large bed of sand extending from the Spinney hills to the Infirmary Square, about twenty seven feet below the surface, and emptying itself into the Soar. Below that was a bed of red marle, in which there was no water for more than thirty feet, Under the central part of Leicester there was no gravel, but the wells were in the red marle, and about twelve yards deep where they entered an immense spring. There had been a scarcity of water in a dry summer in this district. The cost of a pump and well complete in the gravel was about £9. The average repairs might amount to 5s a year, and in the deeper wells to 10s. The consumption of water by each family might be 70 gallons per week of hard, and of soft water about eight gallons. The cost of cisterns would vary from £10 to £5. The hard water sometimes corroded the pipes, but not so as to penetrate them. The cost of plumber's work for a water closet, without a pump, would be about £10, and the supply of water would be obtained from a cistern in the roof. When this water failed a supply would have to be pumped up. The houses which had water closets were those which had no back yard. He was the owner of about 60 small houses, which were built about twenty feet by twenty four, and seventeen feet to the eaves, containing four rooms.

Mr Thomas Thompson, Humberstone Gate, complained that the approaches of Queen Street and Southampton Street, to the luggage station, were quite unsafe. They had a considerable rise, about 1 in 30. Queen Street was made at the time when the railway was opened. Nine drays were constantly employed, each making about sixteen trips a day, with a horse each, and carrying from two to three tons. The roads were in such a bad state that it was unsafe for the drays to pass along ; they were paved. The overseers admitted that the roads were in a bad state, but would not do anything. This state of things had existed about five years.

Mr S Stone, Town Clerk, gave evidence as to the extent, description and drainage of the corporation property.

Mr Flint then entered into various details as to the levels of different parts of the town, the present drainage, and other matters connected with the inquiry, after which Mr Ranger proceeded with his personal inspection of the town.

235 February 10 1849

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 **William Simmonds**, boatman of Loughborough, was charged with refusing, on demand, to pay £1 15s 2d due for wages, being at the rate of 9s a week and victuals. Adjudged to be due, and ordered to be paid with costs.

236 February 10 1849

MAN DROWNED On Saturday an inquest was held at Foxton upon **John Holden**, deceased. He was engaged in navigating a pair of boats from Leicester to Newport Pagnall on Thursday evening week, and had passed with the foremost boat safely through seven out of the ten locks at Foxton, when his comrade called out to the boatman behind, "Have you seen Jack?" to which he replied he had not, and the other then said, "I'm afraid he's in the lock". The boatman, **Edwin Hackett**, then ran up and saw the deceased's cap and the shaft which he had to close the far gate floating in the lock ; upon which the lock-keeper was called, and with a drag he got the deceased out in about five minutes ; but he appeared to be dead, and although several means were used to restore animation, they had no effect. The only account that could be given of the accident was that the shaft, a pole of about sixteen feet long with which the deceased was pushing to the lock gate, must have slipped and caused him to fall forward into the water. He was at the time perfectly sober, and was considered to be in his station a very respectable hard working man. Verdict, "Accidental death".

237 March 10 1849

COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICE, SATURDAY MARCH 3

WILFUL DAMAGE **Joseph and Samuel Rayson**, two boatmen, were charged with throwing down a gate at Aylestone, the property of the proprietors of the Union Canal, on February 21st, and doing damage to the value of 1s. The gate was one used by boatmen in case of floods, and the defendants were seen breaking it down with their hands, and afterwards throwing it into the canal. Two other men were engaged in the outrage, but their names were not known. Samuel Rayson came across both boats which were in the lock, to assist in breaking down the gate. The time when the mischief was done was about two o'clock in the morning. The father of the parties had offered to make the matter up. Mr Bell (for the defence) contended that the gate was broken down by a man named **Hudson**, who was with the other boat, and was drunk, and called a witness named James to prove this. Fined 12s each, including costs, or in default fourteen days imprisonment.

ASSAULT William Gilbert was charged by **William Peet** of Thurmaston with assaulting him on Monday morning, against the lock on the canal, by throwing stones and dirt at him. The defendant did not appear. The complainant was engaged in drawing off the water for the boats at the time of the assault, and on his saying he would get a warrant for the defendant, he only threw the harder. Fined 16s including costs, or in default two months imprisonment.

238 March 24 1849

LEICESTER LENT ASSIZES - STABBING WITH INTENT TO KILL **James Sanderson** (20), a boatman, was charged with cutting and wounding Police-Constable Richard Mayne on the 16th of January last. The prisoner pleaded guilty. His Lordship said he was afraid the prisoner hardly understood the awful nature of the charge – it was with intent to do murder. If that was the case, he might retract his plea. "What", said his Lordship, "do you say prisoner to that charge?" Prisoner, "Guilty, my Lord". In answer to the question of the Court why death should not be recorded against him, the prisoner begged for mercy, crying bitterly, and said he had witnesses to character. His Lordship : What can character do in such a case? Several persons were then called who had known

the prisoner many years, and described him to be generally a peaceable man, never having known anything violent of him before. His Lordship said, "after such a character, he would take the trouble to read the depositions carefully, and God send he might find something favourable in them". Sentence was then deferred until the following morning.

239 April 7 1849

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY APRIL 5 **John Polkey**, a boatman of Loughborough, was charged with assaulting Police-Constable John Horne, on Saturday night last, while in the execution of his duty. Mr Inglesant appeared on behalf of defendant, and attempted to show that great and unnecessary violence had been used towards him, whereby he had been a considerable sufferer. It would seem from the evidence that defendant was drunk and using very indecent language. When complainant interfered, defendant resisted ; a scuffle ensued, both were thrown down. Two other policemen came to the assistance of complainant. The crowd increased, part of which encouraged the resistance of defendant, until violence was used to compel him to proceed, and his head broken and otherwise bruised, so that medical assistance was necessary. In consideration of his suffering so much already, the Bench, who convicted him, fined him but 5s. John Ward charged **John Rossall**, boatman of Loughborough, with neglecting to pay him 18s 3d due for wages. Ordered to be paid with court costs only.

240 April 28 1849

TOWN HALL, LEICESTER, MONDAY APRIL 23

FIGHTING AND ATTEMPTING A RESCUE **James Spencer** and **Charles Church** were charged by PC Alfred Baum, the first with fighting on the West Bridge on Saturday night, the latter with resisting him in the execution of his duty. The complainant, being in the neighbourhood of the West Bridge, heard a noise of some boatmen threatening to serve PC Mayn out for transporting one of their body, and on going to the scene of action, apprehended Spencer, who was disorderly and fighting, and was taking him up to the station house when Church and others followed and endeavoured to rescue him. Fined 10s each, or in default a fortnight's imprisonment.

241 May 16 1849

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY MAY 14 **John Cayless**, a boatman out of employment (pleaded) guilty to a charge of attempting to take fish in a (.....) the right belonged to C M Phillipps Esq (was fined) £1 and costs or one months imprisonment.

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242 July 14 1849

COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICE, SATURDAY JULY 7

DRUNKENNESS **William Hyde**, boatman, Blaby, was fined 5s for being drunk and disorderly.

243 July 14 1849

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JULY 12

DEAR ROSES **Michael Lydall** and **Uriah Simpson**, two boatmen, were charged with cutting off and carrying away five standard rose trees from the garden of Mr Joseph Hudson of Barrow-upon-Soar, of the value of 1s each and upwards, on the night of the 30th of June or early on Sunday morning the 1st of July. Mr Weston appeared for the defence. It was proved that the defendants passed that way on the night named. PC J Widdowson found, in the sleeping room of the boat they worked, when lying at the public wharf, leaves of roses and leaves of rose trees answering the description stolen. James Sheffield, sergeant of the borough police, deposed to seeing Lydall and his wife on the 1st of July pass the Pack Horse public house in Leicester, the latter carrying a large bunch of roses of a crimson colour, with stems to them ; and **Samuel Razin**, a boatman, to seeing Lydall on the 1st of July with a bunch of flowers, but did not take sufficient notice to say of what kind. The Bench discharged Simpson, but convicted Lydall, and ordered him to pay 1s each for the

rose trees and costs, which amounted to £3 2s 6d.

244 August 25 1849

TOWN HALL, LEICESTER, FRIDAY AUGUST 4 – SUSPECTED THEFT **James Morris**, a boatman from Derbyshire, was brought up on suspicion of stealing a cheese, the property of some person unknown. He was met in St George Street by PCI Hart, at a very early hour in the morning, with the cheese wrapped in a handkerchief. When questioned about it, he said he had bought it, but he could not tell where. Remanded.

245 September 1 1849

BOATMAN DROWNED Yesterday week, a boatman named **Godfrey Leonard**, while travelling with a boat on the Midland Counties Canal, imprudently got on the top of the cabin when near to Snarestone, and being in a state of intoxication fell backwards into the water. His master, who had previously shut him up in the cabin on account of his outrageous conduct, and had declined to let him steer the boat, put down his arm into the water to lay hold of him, but could not ; and then proceeded with the assistance of another boatman to search for him with hookshafts, by which means he was found and pulled out, but he had then been in the water a quarter of an hour, and was quite dead. He was put in a cart and taken to Snarestone, where on Saturday an inquest was held upon him, at which the jury returned the following verdict :- “That deceased fell into the Midland Counties Canal when intoxicated, and was drowned therein”.

246 September 29 1849

NOTTINGHAM POLICE OFFICE, THURSDAY **Thomas Cartledge**, aged 36, boatman, of Lewes Square, Rancliffe Street, and **John Wheatley**, aged 36, boatman of Castle Donington, were taken at one yesterday afternoon by Superintendent Raynor and Inspector Wilkinson, on suspicion of stealing about 60lbs of tea from Gainsborough, either on Saturday night or Monday morning last. Remanded.

247 December 1 1849

COMMITTALS On Friday, three boatmen named **George Dean**, **Thomas Maltby** and **George Flinders** were committed for trial at the next quarter sessions by E C Middleton Esq, on a charge of stealing a quantity of provisions, on Thursday night, from a boat lying on the canal near Loughborough.

248 December 22 1849

DARING ROBBERY On Wednesday week, Mary Smith and Charles Bridget were committed by Thomas Mowbray Esq at the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Petty Sessions, upon the following charge :- **Thomas Wheatcroft**, a boatman of Loughborough, was accosted in Swan Street, in that town, by the female prisoner, and after some little conversation they walked away together. In a short time they stopped under a gateway, and not more than two minutes had elapsed when the male prisoner rushed in upon them, made some remarks which Wheatcroft did not understand, and directly both prisoners started off in opposite directions. As may be supposed, Wheatcroft immediately felt in his pockets, and to his surprise found himself minus one £10 note, three £5 notes, ten sovereigns and about 9s in silver. Information was immediately given to Superintendent Hague, who obtained from Wheatcroft a description of both prisoners, and forwarded the same to different parts of the country. Thomas Price, the constable at Ashby, was one of those who received such information, and being on the alert he soon apprehended the female prisoner in Ashby, and upon her producing her pocket £4 was found in gold. He then took a ride by train to Burton, and in less than ten minutes saw a man whom he thought very much resembled the description given of the male prisoner. He ventured to apprehend him, and upon his person found three of the stolen notes and ten sovereigns. The parties were remanded until Wednesday last, when they were finally committed to take their trial at the next Quarter Sessions.

249 January 4 1851

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH, DECEMBER 30 On the 30th of December, **William Woodcock** of Loughborough, boatman, was remanded for a week on a charge of having stolen a quantity of hay on the 28th ult at Loughborough, the property of another boatman named **John White**.

250 February 8 1851

BOATMAN DROWNED On Sunday, a boatman named **Joseph Blackett**, who lived at Sawley, and had started that morning with a pair of fly boats, of which he was steersman, from Shardlow, when about a quarter of a mile below Sileby mill, in going back over the cabin to the helm which he had left a few minutes before to put up some corn for the horses, slipped, and notwithstanding all his efforts to save himself, fell into the water. Unfortunately, he was not able to swim, and though he endeavoured to make for the bank, he sunk before his comrades could render him any assistance. After an ineffectual attempt to get him out with the boat shaft, a drag was brought by the boatman of another boat, and with this he was got out, after being in the water about a quarter of an hour, when he appeared to be quite dead. An inquest was held upon him on Monday, when a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

251 February 22 1851

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH, FEBRUARY 15 **Francis Kilbourne** of Loughborough, boatman, was charged with having assaulted his wife while he was in a state of intoxication on the 12th instant. Defendant showed much contrition for what had happened, and promising never to offend again, the complaint was allowed to be withdrawn, he having agreed to pay the expenses.

252 March 22 1851

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH, MARCH 18 **William Smith** of Mountsorrel, boatman, was committed for having on the 15th instant feloniously stolen a tumbler glass from the premises of Mr Thomas Wells, licensed victualler of Mountsorrel.

253 March 22 1851

MARKET HARBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY MARCH 18 **Thomas Gee**, boatman of Loughborough, was charged with stealing a sack bag from a boat, at Foxton, on February 20th, the property of Mr John Watson, and was committed for trial.

254 March 29 1851

SUDDEN DEATH On Friday, an inquest was held at Loughborough on the body of **Rice Conquest**, a boatman of Market Harborough who, while the boat on which he was employed was being unloaded of some sacks at Orgill's wharf, Loughborough, suddenly fell down, gave two or three sighs, and died soon after. He had complained during his journey from Leicester of being unwell, but had assisted to "hitch" the sacks of corn on two men's backs, up to the moment when he was seized with death, and was also talking to Mr Tebbutt who was on the canal bank, at the time when **Mattock**, one of the boatmen, saw him reel on one side and fall. Mr Thomas Adams, Mr Palmer's assistant, who was called to see the deceased immediately afterwards, having deposed that in his opinion the cause of death was the result of either spasm of the heart, or the rupture of a blood vessel in the vicinity of the heart, probably produced by the "hitching" of the sacks, the deceased being in a not very good state of health at the time, the jury returned a verdict of "Natural death".

255 July 12 1851

BOY DROWNED AT LOUGHBOROUGH On Tuesday an inquest was held at Loughborough upon John Gregory Cayless, deceased. He was a little boy about three years of age, the son of John Cayless, a net maker, residing on the canal bank. On Monday his mother put him in Mr Jennings'

close, which was near her own house, to play with a girl named Harriet Neal, and looked in occasionally to see that they were safe. After a short time she missed the deceased, and inquiring of an old woman named Sheppard, who was talking to the girl, where he was, understood that he had been gone from the field about two minutes, and was supposed to have gone home. As she knew he had not been there she went to the neighbour's houses to inquire for him, and while doing so saw a crowd of boys about Nash's bridge, which was about two hundred yards from the house ; and hastening thither with instinctive alarm, reached the bridge just in time to meet the deceased in the arms of a boatman named **Attenborough**, who had got him out of the water. He was taken home and the usual means employed to restore animation by Mr Palmer's assistant, Mr Adams, but without effect. When first seen by Attenborough he was floating on his back on the surface of the water, and was got out with a boat hook, which Attenborough procured from a boat that was coming down the canal at the time. He gasped once or twice as he was being conveyed home, but exhibited no other sign of life. He was a very venturesome boy, but timid at water, having been repeatedly cautioned, and must have had to pass his own house to get to the place where he was found. Verdict, "Accidental death".

256 July 26 1851

SHOCKING BRUTALITY A boatman named **Wick** is in custody at Manchester, on the charge of kicking a woman to death. Police-Constable Moores was going down Back Irwell Street about 20 minutes to five o'clock on Monday morning, when he heard screams from a cellar, and on going there, found Wick kicking and beating two women, whom he accused of having robbed him of four half crowns. One of the women was bleeding about the head and face, and appeared to be dying. She was afterwards conveyed to the Infirmary, but died on the way. The other woman was also carried to the Infirmary, where she lies in a precarious state. The prisoner was taken before the borough magistrates, but was remanded.

257 August 2 1851

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, SATURDAY JULY 26 **William Pickard**, boatman, for assaulting Sarah Harris, widow, was fined 20s and costs, or two months imprisonment.

258 September 6 1851

MELTON MOWBRAY PETTY SESSIONS, SEPTEMBER 2 (before E B Hartopp Esq and the Rev G E Gillett). **Thomas Wheatcroft** and **Joseph Wheatcroft**, boatmen, both of Loughborough, were charged by Benjamin Davis with an assault. Allowed to arrange, defendant paying costs.

259 November 8 1851

FATAL ACCIDENT On Saturday evening last, as one of Mr Jacob Bradford's boats, belonging to Thorney, was leaving the side basin laden with coal and carrying, besides the two boatmen, four passengers, she was swamped by the coming in of the tide, and three out of the four passengers were drowned. The two boatmen, together with another man, one of the passengers, were saved by means of a rope which had been thrown out to them from a vessel.

260 November 22 1851

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 13 **George Ward**, boatman, Loughborough, was charged by Mr Thomas Hopkin of Sneinton, Notts with having, on the 15th ult, allowed his boat to enter a lock at Hemington, belonging to the Trent Navigation Company, without throwing a stern rope, contrary to the Bye Laws of the said Company. Defendant admitted the offence, and was fined 20s and costs, or one months imprisonment.

John Ward, boatman, Loughborough, remanded last week on a charge of stealing a quantity of provisions, the property of his brother, was discharged, the evidence being insufficient to justify a committal.

261 December 13 1851

COUNTY COURT, LEICESTER DISTRICT, TUESDAY DECEMBER 9 **William Shelley** and **Jas Bown**, two boatmen, charged with assaulting the bailiffs of the court on November 8 in Bath Lane, when engaged in making an arrest, were fined 10s each.

262 February 7 1852

DEATHS On the 29th ult at Loughborough, suddenly, **John Cooke**, boatman.

263 February 21 1852

ROBBERIES On Saturday evening, from the person of **William Smith**, boatman, a cotton purse containing four sovereigns and a half and 1s 6d in silver, while passing along a narrow lane leading from Pasture Lane to Craven Street, by two men who knocked him down and took the purse out of his pocket.

264 February 28 1852

DEATH BY DROWNING NEAR KEGWORTH On Monday, **George Shaw**, who was navigating his boat on the river Soar near Kegworth bridge, following another boat, observed the dead body of a man suddenly rise to the surface of the water, about two yards from the side of the boat, the disturbance of the water by the first boat having brought the corpse into sight. The boatman tied a piece of cord to it, which he fastened to a post, then returning to the town, the body being removed to the Kegworth Bridge Inn. The remains were in a decomposed state, but were still recognisable by a girl living at the inn, as those of a young man named Benjamin Brown, who had called for several glasses of ale on the night of Tuesday the 20th of January. On leaving the Kegworth Bridge Inn a little the worse for liquor at a late hour in the evening of that day, when it was quite dark, he would be compelled on his way home to pass near the river Soar. He was never seen alive after that evening. When the body was examined, a tobacco box which he had produced at the Inn on the night he went there was found upon him, with a shilling, tailor's thimble, bodkin and silk handkerchief. His clothes were not torn. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned at the inquest held on Tuesday.

265 April 10 1852

COUNTY POLICE OFFICE, SATURDAY APRIL 3

SETTING FIRE TO A PLANTATION Three boatmen named **John White**, **Benjamin Richards** and **William Sheldon**, who were remanded from Wednesday on a charge of setting fire to a plantation at Little Glen, the property of Joseph Knight Esq of Aylestone, were again brought up. Mr Harrison appeared for the prosecution, and stated that since the fire on the 5th of March, a man had been kept on watch near to the plantation, and on the day in question he saw two boats pass, and directly the second boat had passed, he observed the fire break out. Mr H contended that great suspicion attached to White, who was in the last boat, as fire would break out immediately in consequence of the very dry state of the ground. The Bench told the defendants they had been remanded on a very serious charge, and that there was no doubt in their minds that one of the defendants did commit the offence ; but there was a legal doubt as to which of them it was, and therefore they were discharged.

266 April 24 1852

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS On Saturday last, a boatman named **John Newby** was taken before E C Middleton Esq and remanded on a charge of having stolen from the wharf of the Midland Railway Company at Loughborough, half a ton of coals, the property of Mr Thomas Chapman.

267 May 1 1852

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, APRIL 23 **John Wogdall** of Loughborough, boatman,

who at the previous sessions had been charged with obstructing PC Higginbottom while in the execution of his duty in taking to the house of detention one Charles Fisher, was again placed before the bench ; but it being proved that defendant was in the act of assisting and not obstructing the police, the case was stopped and defendant discharged.

268 June 19 1852

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH **W Turner**, boatman, was charged with refusing to maintain his three motherless children, who had become chargeable to the parish. One months imprisonment.

269 June 26 1852

A man named **Matthew Wheat**, a boatman of Barlow's Yard, North, was brought before T Stokes Esq on Monday, and was charged with encouraging Forest White to resist the apprehension of him at the time in question. He was remanded.

270 July 24 1852

LEICESTERSHIRE MIDSUMMER ASSIZES – NISI PRIUS COURT

JOSEPH KNIGHT v THE GRAND JUNCTION CANAL COMPANY For the plaintiff, Mr Macauley QC and Mr Feild ; attornies Messrs Miles and Gregory. For defendants, Mr Mellor QC and Mr Hayes ; attornies Messrs Sharp, Field and Co.

This was an action brought by Joseph Knight Esq of Aylestone against the Grand Junction Canal Company, to recover damages done to a plantation by fire. It appeared that Mr Knight had suffered severely by two plantations being set fire to by the boatmen, and in this particular case a plantation in Little Glenn was entirely spoiled, and Mr Knight was not able to punish the parties who did the damage. Mr Knight's attornies considered the company were liable for damage, and being able to identify a boat called the *Horninglow*, belonging to the company, as the boat from which the damage was done, they wrote to the company, and at first negotiations were opened and they expressed themselves willing to enquire into the circumstances of the case. The particulars were furnished to them, and the company subsequently declined to entertain the case any longer.

Mr Joseph Hassall, bailiff to Mr Knight, said there was an ornamental plantation belonging to Mr Knight close to the Union Canal. Near this plantation there was a lock called Bush lock. On March 5th he was in a lane near the plantation, and observed some smoke near the middle of the plantation, but close to the water. Mr Tebbutt was with him. Witness went to the plantation and found it to be on fire ; the fire had taken the plantation before it, and cleared as it went on, beginning at the south end. The fire was running on at the rate of three or four yards a minute. The plantation had been planted about six years. Shortly before the fire broke out, he had seen a boat pass up the canal from Leicester. That was about half an hour before the fire. There was smoke and fire, and that was all they saw to convince them there was a boat on the canal. After putting out the fire, he followed the boat and found it was the *Horninglow*. There was a fire still on the boat, of which **Chambers** was captain. He came out of the boat to know what was the matter ; they told him someone had set the plantation on fire, and they were doubtful it was them. The captain said he would not have such a thing laid to his charge ; he had been captain a good many years, and he would go back to **West**, who was at the Bush lock, and hear what he said. Chambers said he was asleep in the cabin, and he could not be accountable for what those would do who were out.

By Mr Mellor : Left the captain at Kilby bridge. The first smoke he saw was from a boat on the canal, about half an hour before he saw the fire. The boat had then passed Glenn bridge, and it was a little over 300 yards from the plantation. Had only seen the smoke from one boat. Was about ten minutes putting the fire out. The plantation was in size half an acre to three roods. A fortnight or three weeks after the fire, there was another fire. About half the plantation was consumed by the first fire, and rather more than a third of the whole by the second fire.

Mr Thomas Tebbutt, examined by Mr Macauley, said he occupied land at Wigston. He was with Hassall on March 5th. He saw smoke from a boat on the canal, and afterwards found the plantation

to be on fire. He followed the boat with Hassall, and a conversation took place as described by Hassall. The other men who were with the captain said they had not thrown any fire into the plantation. Further back from where this *Horninglow* boat was, he found two other boats, which were stopping at the wharf. They were Green's boats, and were tied up for the night.

Mr Ruffle of Leicester, in the employ of the Company, produced a printed form or declaration of the Grand Junction Canal Company's boat, "the *Horninglow*". The number of the boat was 6541, and R Chambers was captain. It had upon it the name of the Grand Junction Canal Company. Two coal boats passed an hour and a half before, and four more afterwards.

Thomas West, keeper or manager of the Bush lock, deposed that he looked after this and three other locks. Was at Bush lock when the plantation was burned. Passed two coal boats before the *Horninglow*. It took about ten minutes to get through the locks, and emptying again. The *Horninglow* was about 80 yards off the lock then. As soon as he began to draw the water off, he saw some smoke. When he saw the fly boat first he did not observe anything at the plantation. The boat was going at the rate of about two miles and a half an hour. He asked the driver if he saw any smoke down against the plantation, and he said he saw smoke as he came through the Glenn bridge. Had been subpoenaed on the part of the company on Saturday last, and before that he saw a strange gentleman, viz, on Sunday week. Did not see Chambers, the captain, when the boat passed through the lock. Did not know the number of the boat, but it belonged to the Grand Junction Canal Company. By Mr Mellor : Had been lock-keeper thirteen or fourteen years, and the lock belonged to the Union Canal, by whom witness was employed. Green's boat passed through the lock before the *Horninglow*. Some women were in these boats. Green's boats were what you call "market merry". They had been drinking a "goodish drop". The men in the *Horninglow* appeared to be sober. The woman he saw in the coal boats was a Leicester person. By the Judge : The *Horninglow* might have a little fire in, but he saw none.

William Potts of Newport, a boatman, deposed to passing from Leicester with a couple of coal boats. He was in command of both boats, and they were Green's boats. When they passed Mr Knight's plantation there was no fire there. Nothing was done on board his boat that would cause the fire. The *Horninglow* was after him, and passed his boat after they were tied up at Kilby bridge, about two miles beyond Bush lock. The boats were named *Perseverance* and *Trusty*, and he was in the stern end of the *Perseverance*, steering her. A woman was in his boat, riding up to Kilby. If anything had been thrown in the plantation, he must have seen it. Had a little bit of fire in his cabin, The woman was in the cabin, and **George Marshall** was driving the boat. (By Mr Mellor) : Did not shovel out the fire and put it into the plantation. He did not know if a woman was in the other boat.

Edward Hudson(sic) was the driver of that boat and **Joseph Boswell** steerer. There was a little fire in both boats. Slept one night at Leicester. Visited the Royal Oak and found a good tap there. Did not go there on the morning he started. Had two pints that morning at Neale's. Met the lady on the bridge after he had had the two pints. Started from Leicester about twelve o'clock. He met the lady at ten, and after that went into the public house again to have another pint. There was a public house at Blaby wharf, but did not taste the tap there. The lady got out at Kilby bridge and walked back to Leicester again, She went with him for the pleasure of a ride. Did not see a woman in the other boat, nor did he hear a voice. Did not see a petticoat, nor a bit of one. Did not sing on the road, nor had anything to make him sing.

Joseph Boswell, the steerer of the second coal boat, *Trusty*, remembered right well passing the plantation. Did not see any fire or smoke there when the boat passed. There was nobody in his boat besides himself. **Edwin Hinds** was driving. First heard of the fire when he tied up at Kilby bridge. Did nothing to cause the fire. (By Mr Mellor) : Was in the boat behind Bott (Potts?). Had half a pint today, but had not been in the Royal Oak or New Inn. Had not had anything to hurt him today ; had only had two half pints today. There was no singing on the road. There was a fire in his boat, and he had a teakettle on as he passed the plantation. The kettle was not boiling, but "doing" or simmering. He knew the woman who was in the other boat right well.

Edward Hind deposed to driving *Trusty*, the last of the two coal boats. There was neither fire nor smoke as he passed by.

George Marshall (the other driver) of the *Perseverance*, gave similar evidence.

Joseph Knight Esq then gave evidence. He said that the plantation had been growing five and a half years. It consisted of larch, oak, spruce, fir and Scotch fir, and it was intended for an ornamental plantation. He estimated his damage at far more than the money value of the trees destroyed. The trees and labour of planting would be at least £10. He estimated the estate was £60 worse than it would have been if the plantation had not been destroyed. The weather on the 5th of March was remarkably dry. From the 10th of February to that time there had not been any rain. If fire had been thrown on the plantation it would catch the long grass, which was then as dry as stubble. (By Mr Mellor) : The plantation was 4 3/4 miles from Leicester. The plantation was 130 yards long by 30 or 35 in width. Land in Great Glenn was more than 40s an acre, and the adjoining parish was 50s an acre. (By Mr Macauley) : It was within a very short distance of the Railway Station at Wigston. A post and rail fence would be required, which would cost him about £12, in consequence of the old quick hedge having been burnt.

Mr Mellor addressed the jury for the defendants, and said he never heard of a case in which it was sought to fix another person with a legal liability upon such slight evidence as, because they could not account for any other mode by which the fire might have been produced, to charge someone of these boats. Nothing was presumed in consequence of the dry state of the weather, and he did expect that some evidence would be given that amongst the remaining charcoal, some traces of coal ashes were found near the canal. He maintained that throughout the whole case there was nothing but a conflict of probabilities, and not a conflict of facts. The balance was in his favour, and as it was his friend's duty to make out his case, and not merely dress one up, he hoped his learned friend would not impose upon them by his powerful eloquence, but that the jury would, if they could not say how the fire arose, return a verdict for the defendants.

Mr Mellor then called **Robert Chambers**, a servant in the employ of the Grand Junction Company, and captain of the boat, who stated he was hired by the voyage, and he found men, fuel and other necessaries, and maintained them. He remembered the day when the plantation was burnt. There were with him three men, **Hooley, Ironmonger** and **Halford**. They knew nothing of the fire when they passed the plantation, and heard nothing of it till the men followed them. They had a little fire, but very little indeed ; not so much as would make a smoke, and what was worse, there was nothing to mend it. The two men who followed the boat charged them with setting fire to the plantation. He called out Ironmonger and Halford, but they would hardly look at them, and said the property belonged to a man who would spare neither time nor expense to "persecute". He asked them to go down to the lock with him, and they refused to do so, and went off to two more boats. Never did anything to set the plantation on fire. They had the kettle on very soon after passing the plantation, and when it boiled, had tea. By Mr Macauley : His man told Hassall and Tebbutt that he saw the smoke as he was coming under Glenn bridge. That was before he got to the plantation. They did not stop at the plantation to heed it. He considered times hard now, and therefore a man was of little worth without a character, and he did not want his character injured.

Hooley, one of the boatmen, gave similar evidence, and also Halford and Ironmonger. All these witnesses said that Tebbutt and Hassall were told they had seen the smoke from the plantation when they came under Glenn bridge.

Mr Macauley recalled Mr Tebbutt, and he denied this, and said that they all positively said they had seen nothing of it. Mr Hassall stated the same, upon being recalled. Mr Mellor replied, and Mr Macauley addressed the jury in reply to the whole case.

His lordship, in summing up, said the jury must be satisfied before they could return a verdict for plaintiff that the damage was committed by the negligence of the men in the *Horninglow* boat. He suggested there were fallacies in the reasonings of Mr Macauley, and suggested that it might hereafter turn out that the fire was occasioned by some straggler, who had been lighting his pipe in the plantation in question. His lordship then reviewed the evidence at length.

At seven o'clock the jury returned a verdict for the defendant, after about two minutes deliberation.

271 August 7 1852

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, JULY 30 **Michael Lydall**, boatman, Leicester, was charged with fishing in water where the right belongs to Mr George Fowkes of Rothley House, on the 17th of July. The charge was proved, and the defendant was fined 20s and costs, or one months hard labour.

272 August 28 1852

TOWN HALL, FRIDAY AUGUST 27

NON PAYMENT OF WAGES Thomas Bedoe was charged by **Joseph Ward** with non payment of £2 18s 6d due to him as wages. There was a dispute as to the time complainant had worked. An order was made for the payment of £2 16s 0d, and in default of payment, 21 days imprisonment. The same defendant was then charged by **William Ward** with non payment of £1 11s 8d. The parties in both these cases are boatmen. An order was made in this case for the full amount or 21 days imprisonment.

273 September 4 1852

TOWN HALL, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 1 (Before J Hudson Esq) **William Levers**, boatman of Dunn's Lane, was charged by Mr William Cartwright, relieving officer, with neglecting his family and leaving them chargeable to the parish. He was ordered to be imprisoned fourteen days to hard labour.

274 September 4 1852

FATAL ACCIDENT On Thursday evening week, an inquest was held before C Swann Esq at the Bull's Head Inn in Sutton-in-Ashfield on the body of **John Cable**, aged 30, a boatman, who was accidentally drowned in the Zouch Mills locks on the Soar Navigation on Monday night the 23rd of August. The deceased is a single man and belonged to Leicester. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned".

275 November 6 1852

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, OCTOBER 29 **Hannah Matlock**, wife of **Charles Matlock**, boatman of Loughborough, was fined 20s and costs, or one months imprisonment, for having on the 23rd October unlawfully assaulted Selina Smedley of the same place, singlewoman.

276 November 27 1852

MARRIAGES On Tuesday, at St Mary's Church, Hinckley, by the Rev J Mackie, **Mr Thomas Dorman**, boatman, to Dinah, second daughter of Mr James Pratt, Hinckley.

277 January 15 1853

Hinckley

FOWL STEALING On Sunday, PC Earsby apprehended a boatman named **Thomas Thorpe** from Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, for fowl stealing at Measham the day previous. He was committed to Derby Assizes.

278 January 22 1853

TOWN HALL, LEICESTER, MONDAY JANUARY 17

A DILATORY EMPLOYER Samuel Shilton was summoned for 11s 4d due for wages to **William Dakin**. The complainant proved that he had been in defendant's employ as a boatman, at the rate of 2s 4d a day, and 11s 4d was still owing. The defendant said a window was lost in the voyage, which complainant agreed to pay, and an order was made for the balance, 10s 4d and the expenses, and in default fourteen days imprisonment.

279 February 5 1853

TOWN HALL, LEICESTER, MONDAY JANUARY 31

NON PAYMENT OF WAGES John Bird was charged by **Matthew Wheat** with non payment of 13s 7 1/2d due to him for wages as a boatman. The defendant appeared to be a very unprincipled man, his intention evidently being not to pay complainant. He had the youth's services for nearly six weeks and only paid him about a fortnight's wages. He tried to take advantage of complainant by saying that no agreement was made, and 2s a week was quite enough for him, as he did not know his work. Defendant called one of his boatmen to prove this, but instead of doing so, he assisted the complainant, for he admitted that such youths were worth from 3s to 4s a week, and complainant contended that he was to have 4s 6d a week. The Magistrates made an order upon defendant for the payment of the money forthwith, and in default of payment, his boat and horse to be seized. The money was paid by defendant's "butties".

280 February 26 1853

TOWN HALL, MONDAY FEBRUARY 21

ASSAULT BY A BOATMAN **James Marriott** was charged by **John Cabel** with assaulting him on the 19th inst. The parties are boatmen to Mr Pollard of Market Harborough, and were with a boat near to the Abbey Meadow, when defendant beat the horse very badly, and because the complainant (who is captain of the boat) remonstrated, he knocked him down and struck him very violently. A witness named John Dunmore corroborated. The defendant said he was struck first. Fined 7s 6d or fourteen days imprisonment.

281 March 12 1853

FATAL ACCIDENT A boatman's wife named **Martha Wane** of Caroline Street, aged 20 years, died last Sunday night under painful circumstances. On a windy day in January, she was sitting before the fire paring potatoes, when a cinder fell on her gown. Her clothes burst into flames before she was aware of anything of the sort, and she immediately ran into the street, when the flames increased, but some neighbours soon extinguished them with some wet clothes. She was half her time gone in pregnancy, and miscarried in about a month's time. The surgeon who attended her expected her to die from the burns and injury to the nervous system, soon after the accident, but owing to the sound state of her health and her youth, she held out until Sunday last, when she died from diarrhoea and consequent exhaustion brought on by frequent discharge from the wound.

282 March 19 1853

LEICESTERSHIRE LENT ASSIZES

SPECIAL JURY CASES Two of the special jurors did not answer and were fined 10s ; but one afterwards attended and explained, and he was excused.

JOSEPH KNIGHT, plaintiff : THOMAS NORTH defendant.

For plaintiff, Mr Macauley QC and Mr Hayes ; attorneys Messrs Miles and Gregory. For defendant, Mr Mellor QC and Mr Feild : attorney Mr Shilton.

The action arose out of the fires at the plantation belonging to Mr Knight which, it was alleged, arose from the negligence of the boatmen travelling along the Union Canal, and was brought against the owner of the boat ; the previous action, tried last summer, with reference to a firing on the 5th March, having failed in consequence of Mr Knight being unable to fix clearly upon the boat from which the fire proceeded. The present action was brought against Mr North, the owner of two boats that passed this plantation on the 29th of March, when another fire took place.

Mr Macauley addressed the jury at some length, and said it would be argued from the other side that the action was not brought against the right man ; and he strongly surmised that the proper man to go to law with, in the eyes of Mr North, would be some boatmen who, when he had paid all his debts, would probably be worth a short pipe and a fur cap, or something of the sort. The name of Mr North was in large letters on the boats "*Ironsides*" and "*Matilda*", and he (Mr Macauley) concluded that, under the Act of Parliament, Mr North was clearly liable for the damage. Mr North

had never denied that the boats or the men belonged to him, but thought none of the men were guilty. When Mr North named his solicitor, and he was communicated with, then, for the first time, Mr North's non liability was hinted at. It was then urged that the boats were let on hire to Mr Howard of Aylesbury, and that the men were employed by Mr Howard, and had been for the last two years, and that they had no doubt that Mr Howard, who was a straightforward man, would assist Mr Knight in getting justice from the class of men he had described – the boatmen. When Mr Howard was written to, he denied that he employed the men, or that he paid them wages, or that he had power to discharge them. The name of Mr Howard was on the boats in letters three inches long, and by Act of Parliament it was required that the real name of every owner should be placed on the boats travelling on that canal. He called

Job Good, a labourer in Mr Knight's employ, who said that on the 29th of March the little plantation of Mr Knight's was fired. In the early part of the month, part of that plantation had been burnt. The plantation extended along the canal for 125 yards. He was employed by Mr Knight to watch the plantation. He saw two boats pass on the 29th of March ; they were nearly seventy yards apart. When they got to the first end of the plantation the boatmen began to talk of there having been a fire at the plantation. After they had completely passed the plantation, he saw it on fire. It commenced close to the canal. He tried to put it out, but could not and went for assistance ; he also went for a constable. They overtook the boats at Dunn's lock, the first one past the spinney. A man named **White** was in charge of one of the boats, and **Richards** in charge of the other. There was also a man named **Sheldon** with them. They refused to stop the boats, and they were apprehended. About twenty seven yards of the plantation were burnt, and about twenty yards in breadth. There was no pathway through the plantation. There was a large quantity of dead grass where the fire commenced. The plantation had been in existence about five years. The wind was blowing from the south east when the fire broke out. No other boats had passed the plantation for two hours previously.

(Mr Mellor here admitted that Mr North's name was on the boats.)

Joseph Clarke, another of Mr Knight's servants, gave corroborative evidence. He also stated he found some coal cinders where the fire was, about two yards from the canal, in the plantation. They were hot when he found them. He put the fire out with a watering pan. The cinders were lying in a line.

Two little girls, who were in the field, corroborated.

Superintendent Burdett proved that he stopped the men in charge of the boat and charged them with firing the plantation. He saw the boats, which were named *Ironsides* and *Matilda*, and “Thomas North, Nottingham” was painted conspicuously on each. He looked into the cabin of each of the boats and there was a fire in each, more in the first than in the last. The boats were loaded. In the last boat there was a tea kettle on the fire.

PC Bail proved that he found some cinders in the plantation, near the brink of the water. The grass was burnt where they lay.

Mr Knight was then examined, and said he was owner of the Manor Farm Estate at Little Glen. He planted a plantation seven years ago, consisting of larch, oak, spruce fir and Scotch fir. The trees were planted close to the water's edge. He estimated the damage done by the fire at £65, the damage extending over 31 yards by 28 yards. £20 had been fixed by him as damage in the first instance, because he had taken but a cursory view of the damage, and many trees had since died. The plantation was planted to be an improvement of the property, and was seen from the Manor House. The fence was injured so much that he should have to protect it with rails. He had replanted the piece with 600 trees. He could get £2 per acre for his land.

Mr Macauley put in a number of letters that passed between the parties.

Mr Mellor submitted that there was no case to go to the jury, but

His lordship thought there was abundant evidence and a very good case for the jury.

Mr Mellor then contended that the defendant was not liable, and he had always denied that the fire was occasioned by the men in either of the boats in question ; and if that was left in doubt, notwithstanding the appeal of Mr Macauley and Mr Knight's motives in having this case tried by a

special jury, there was no case. He urged that the theory upon which the plaintiff's case was based was a false one, for it had not been proved that any act of negligence existed on the part of the men in the boat. If it was done at all by the men in the boat, it must have been done wilfully and maliciously and not negligently.

Mr Mellor then called the boatmen, who swore that they were eating their dinners out of the frying pan as they passed the plantation, and they never threw any hot cinders into the plantation or near it, nor did they see anybody else do so. They saw the two girls in the turnip field adjoining the plantation before they got up to the plantation. They had soft coal in the boats, and could not tell the difference between the cinders of hard and the cinders of soft coal. One of them said he was steering the boat which he was in, while eating his dinner ; driving the horse ; and throwing stones at the horse drawing the boat behind him, all at the same time. They said they never saw the plantation on fire, nor did they smell anything like a smell of burn.

Mrs White, wife of one of the boatmen, said she was gone to fill the lock when the boats passed Mr Knight's plantation.

Mr R G Barber, foreman and manager to Mr North (the defendant), said the defendant lives at Basford, Notts, and has extensive collieries there. The *Matilda* and *Ironsides* were Mr North's property, and they were hired out to Mr Howard of Aylesbury. There was no agreement to that effect in writing. He was to pay 6d per ton for the hire of the boats, to convey coals from Babbington to Aylesbury ; and since then it had been reduced to 3d. At the early part of 1851, **John White** was set apart to work for Mr Howard exclusively, which had been adhered to, with the exception of one occasion when another pair of boats were sent. Mr North generally advanced the money to the captain before starting to enable him to pay tonnages, which was charged to the account of Mr Joseph Howard, and Mr Howard settled with the captain at the completion of the journey. Since that arrangement had been in force, the defendant had never paid the boatmen any wages. If Mr Howard wanted to have another captain, he had to send to Mr North to get one. The boatmen were engaged by the captain, and he paid them their wages. Mr North did engage a man named White as captain, to work the boats from Nottingham to Aylesbury. He was paid by the ton, according to the place he went to, and was dismissable by Mr North at any time.

John White senior was called but was not examined.

His lordship said it was very evident the defendant was responsible for the acts of the men on board the boats.

Mr Macauley replied in a clever speech.

The Judge summed up the evidence at great length, remarking upon the singularity of the case.

The Jury returned a verdict for plaintiff for £25, and found that the defendant's servants caused the fire by their negligence.

283 March 25 1853

ACCIDENTAL DROWNING OF A BOATMAN'S CHILD **Henry Newton**, aged four years, son of **James Newton**, boatman of Loughborough, captain to Mr Thornecroft's boats, fell into the canal at that place on Monday morning, and was drowned.

284 March 25 1853

EMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA A townsman who recently emigrated from Leicester has written home to his parents. In his letter he gives an account of the way in which the passengers occupy their time, and he mentions that among his fellow passengers was "Edward, son of Dr Hill, going to the land of gold, his two brothers – the eldest, William, surgeon, and Charles, an attorney are in Australia. Edward is going from Port Philip direct to the diggings. To see him and others performing the most menial offices, as mess men, making puddings, washing tubs, and on Monday taking provisions out for the week, this is such a contrast to their former life and experience ; but instead of it being considered in any way derogatory to our dignity, we take a pleasure in making ourselves useful." The following price list will be useful : " Lodging is dear in Melbourne, £2 per week for a single man in a lodging house, sleeping a dozen in one room. Upwards of 150,000

people are at the diggings. A half quartern loaf is 3s ; meat 6d per lb ; flour dear ; porter and ale 2s per quart. Plenty of employment for all, first rate wages, and provisions are high, thus *both ends meet*. Cauliflowers 2s and 2s 3d, cabbages 1s. A single room is £1 per week, four roomed *small* house £3 per week ; no lodgings to be had. Whole streets formed of tents, some merely a few blankets stitched together. The accounts from the diggings *are on the whole* unfavourable, although some are getting gold by pounds, and spending it quite recklessly, paying £10 a day for a horse and gig. Boatmen are receiving 14s a day, with food and lodging. Washerwomen 8s per day, and 1s each for shirts washing. A boy, fifteen years of age, receives 16s per week and food, as errand and shop boy.

Bricks are selling at £25 per thousand in Australia. In Leicester the same article may be had for about 25s per thousand.

285 April 28 1853

A WOMAN SHOT DEAD BY HER HUSBAND About half past five o'clock on Monday evening, the villagers at Hambleton, which is only about four miles from Garstang, were startled by the report of a gun in the house of **Richard Pedder**, a boatman aged forty, and on a search being instituted, the dead and bleeding body of Mrs Pedder was found stretched upon the floor of the house. It seems from the evidence given at the inquest that the unfortunate woman was in the garden, and that her brutal husband seized a duck gun, and pointing it through the window, shot her dead and then dragged the body into the house. After perpetrating the crime, the murderer escaped, but he was apprehended in a subsequent part of the evening by Police-Constable Cooper, and lodged in the lock up to await the result of the Coroner's inquisition, which ended in his committal to Lancaster to take his trial at the August assizes on the charge of wilful murder.

286 May 14 1853

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT A boatman named **William Polkey**, of Loughborough, has lately been working on the Midland Railway near to Kegworth. Last Friday he was riding on a ballast waggon, and the train suddenly stopped. The sudden jerk threw Polkey off the waggon, and in falling he received very severe injuries to his spine. He was taken to the Loughborough Dispensary, and died on Saturday night from the injuries. It is a general rule that no stranger be allowed to ride upon a ballast train ; but deceased was allowed to ride because he had worked on the line a few days, and had been to Kegworth to receive his wages. An inquest was held on the body on the 10th inst, and a verdict was returned of "Accidental death". The jury strongly recommended that the rule about strangers not being allowed to ride on ballast trains should be strictly enforced.

287 May 21 1853

ADJOURNED EASTER SESSIONS

THE HORSE STEALING CASE James Barwell (25) was charged with stealing, on the 2nd of April, a gelding of the value of £15, the property of the Grand Junction Canal Company. Mr Mundall prosecuted, and called **Jonathan Isaac Jones**, a boatman in the employ of the Company, who stated that on the 1st of April he went to Smethwick for some coals and left the horse tied to some rails while he went on business. When he came back again, the horse was gone. The horse had a rug on it, and on the rug was the owner's name in full, "Grand Junction Canal Company". The horse was marked on the feet, and there was a blemish on the near hind foot by which he could identify the horse. Witness had had the horse frequently during the last twelve months. Cross-examined by the prisoner : The horse was tied up about a mile from the public road. Saw nobody about at the time. Could not say whether the horse was stolen from the post and rails, or whether it got loose. The horse was fastened by a rope round his neck. Re-examined : The Grand Junction Canal kill their old horses, and never sell them alive. Edward Richardson, of the Augustine Friars, said he was at the West Bridge on the 2nd of April and saw a horse tied at the back of a cart, and the prisoner was in the cart. A person asked the price of the horse, and the prisoner set a price on it. He asked £15 for it. Witness observed the number on the hoof of the horse, and asked him if it was a

Grand Junction horse, and the prisoner said he had bought the horse of a man of the name of Cattel, who had bought three others of the Grand Junction Canal Company. In the afternoon the prisoner saw him against the Little Crown, and witness bought the rug of him, and sent off a man to the Station House for a policeman. The man was then given into custody. Prisoner then said he brought the horse from Fazeley, but on the West Bridge the prisoner said he brought it from Anstey by Coventry. William Stoneley of Barwell, wheelwright, said he came to Leicester Fair on the 2nd of April last, to buy a horse. He saw the horse and the prisoner in Gallowtree Gate, and Charles Richardson was with him. Richardson had got the horse on price at £6 5s. Prisoner said he had been drawing bricks at Fazeley with the horse. Witness agreed to have the horse, and gave Richardson 5s for letting him have the bargain. On the same day, the police overtook him as he was going home, and took the horse back. The bargain was made at the Wheat Sheaf, Gallowtree Gate, and they had a jug of ale over it. PC William Clarke deposed that he went to the Little Crown public house, and was told the prisoner had been selling a horse and rug, which were marked. He said he bought it of Cattel, a horse dealer of Fazeley, whom he said was entrusted to sell horses for the Grand Junction Canal Company. Prisoner gave his name as William Smith, coal dealer of 18 George's Buildings, Fazeley, and he said Cattel lived at No 16 George's Buildings. The prisoner said he gave £14 for the horse and rug, and had sold the horse for £6 5s. He then took him to the County Station, and the prisoner offered to fetch the man who had sold him the horse, and said he was a man well known to horse dealers. Witness went to Fazeley, and could find no such place as George's Buildings, and he found that no such man as Smith or Cattel lived there. The horse was branded with the number 865. The prisoner said he was quite innocent of the charge laid against him, and he was quite sorry for so doing, and he hoped it would be a caution to him for the future. The jury found the prisoner guilty of stealing the horse. PC Hawksworth proved that in 1851 he was charged with breaking the neck of a sheep at Nailstone, but he was acquitted. The prisoner was sentenced to seven years transportation.

288 May 28 1853

DEATH FROM DROWNING IN THE WELTON CANAL TUNNEL An inquest was held at the Boot Inn, Daventry, on the 17th instant, on the body of **Edward Jones**, a boatman in the employ of the Grand Junction Canal Company. He was drowned on the previous night in the Welton Canal Tunnel about nine o'clock. The only witness was the "legger" who propelled the boat which deceased was steering through the tunnel. He heard the splash caused by deceased when he fell into the water, but knew nothing more as to the accident with certainty. The body was removed after three hours had elapsed. It is conjectured that deceased fell in being overcome with fatigue and sleep. This boat was worked by only three men ; four is the proper crew. The tunnel, 1 1/4 mile in length, appears a most dangerous place, and escape would seem nearly hopeless in case of an accident like the above, the place being dark and having no ledge at the sides, in addition to which the motion of the boat would tend to draw anyone under the water in case of his falling in. Nothing was known of the family of the unfortunate man, who was, it is supposed, about 35 years of age, and a remarkably well built muscular man.

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289 May 28 1853

ACCIDENTAL DEATH AT MOIRA On Monday last, an inquest was held at this place, on the body of **Richard Bustin**, aged four years, the son of a boatman named **John Bustin**. A fire had been lighted on the towing path on Saturday, opposite Bustin's boat, and the child, in playing about it, got too near and his clothes caught fire. He was so injured by the burns that he died the following afternoon. It appears that in summer the fires are lighted on the towing path to boil the kettle, the cabins being small, and a fire in them making them too hot. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

290 August 20 1853

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH **John Cooper**, late of Castle

Donington, boatman, was remanded for a week on a charge of having stolen a silver plated cup, the property of Mr John Parry, licensed victualler of that place.

291 August 20 1853

COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICE, SATURDAY AUGUST 13

ASSAULTING A POLICEMAN AT A WAKE **Thomas Walker** was charged with assaulting PC Foster at Birstall wake on the 8th August, while in the execution of his duty near the White Horse. When the defendant was asked if he was guilty or not, he said he was sure he didn't know. It appears that he struck the policeman several times, and scuffled with him for a long time, during which he kicked the policeman over his leg. While he was being brought to Leicester, he was very violent and used bad language, threatening to knock the policeman's brains out. Defendant, who is a boatman, was drunk at the time. Fined 30s, or one months hard labour.

292 October 8 1853

DEATHS On the 26th ult, in the Infirmary, aged 43, **John Simpson**, boatman.

293 November 5 1853

STRANGE FATALITY ON THE CANAL An accident of a very curious nature occurred on Sunday night or early on Monday morning to the son of a boatman, while sleeping in a boat in the Public Wharf Yard. His name was **William Smith** ; he was ten years of age ; and his father, who is a boatman, lived in the Orange Tree Yard, in the North. On Saturday, Smith brought a wide boat, belonging to Mr William Cufflin of Mountsorrel, from that place to Leicester. It was loaded with fifty two tons of Mountsorrel granite, and was moored in the basin in the Public Wharf Yard, which basin branches out of the Leicester Navigation. The river and navigation were both very full of water on Saturday from the recent heavy rains, and in some places overflowed the banks. The boat was to have been unloaded on Monday morning. On Saturday evening, the boatman's son, William Smith, went to sleep in the boat to protect it ; and for the same purpose went to the boat on Sunday night, and took with him two dogs. He was seen safe in bed under the boat beam by one of the men, and at five o'clock in the morning the boat was found sunk ; and a boat hook having been procured, the body of the poor boy (drowned) was drawn out of the bed. He was quite dead. The reason of the boat sinking was that the man at Belgrave locks altered the flood gates to draw off the water, and it ran off so speedily that the boat could not float. The bottom would not rest on the ground ; and there being stones at the bottom, the boat fell over from the basin wall, so as to admit water in it, and then it sank. If the boat had been in the middle of the basin, the accident would most probably not have happened, as it would then have carried the burden level. It appears that in consequence of the sewerage works going on in the Abbey Meadow, the water has been diverted from the river into the navigation to prevent the works being flooded. A complaint has been made on the subject, and a meeting of the Navigation Company has been held, at which it was arranged that a man shall be stationed at the flood gates, both by night and day, to regulate the keeping of the water at a proper height ; and the arrangement carefully carried out will most probably prevent any other similar accident. An inquest was held on the body of the boy on Monday last, when a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

294 November 19 1853

COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICE, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Samuel Thompson**, a boatman, was charged by John Statham with ill treating and over driving a horse on the 22nd October, whereby Mary Statham, his wife, was seriously injured, and damage committed to his cart &c, altogether to the amount of six guineas. Before the case was opened, Mr Haxby, who attended with defendant, offered £4 as compensation if the complainant would accede to it, as his client was a poor and honest man. The complainant wishing to leave the case in the hands of the magistrates, he was sworn, and deposed that he was an agent for the Mountsorrel Granite Company, and on the day in question he and his wife were

returning from Leicester market in a light cart. When they got against Wanlip hill top he discovered the defendant was behind him in a light cart, the horse galloping at a tremendous pace. In a moment a collision occurred, and the complainant and his wife were thrown out of the cart with great violence. The damage done to the cart and harness amounted to 10s. His wife had one hand broken and the other badly injured, in consequence of which Mr Wright, surgeon, and a nurse had attended her ever since. Complainant was also slightly hurt, but had recovered. Henry Sutton corroborated, adding there were two men besides defendant in the cart. The defendant was beating the horse, and was very near running into witness's cart. Mr Wright, surgeon of Mountsorrel, after detailing the injuries complainant's wife had sustained, stated it would be a long time before she sufficiently recovered to be able to use her hand. Mr Haxby said he could negative the charge of furious driving, as he had witnesses to prove that the horse, which had been recently purchased from Nottingham Barracks, had run away with the cart, and that the defendant himself had suffered considerably by his own cart being damaged. Arranged out of court.

295 November 19 1853

A LEICESTER BOATMAN ROBBED AT LOUGHBOROUGH On Tuesday night, **John Hensworth** of the Hollow, Westbridge, was at the Ram Inn, Loughborough, and while there, fell asleep in the tap room. When he awoke, he went to bed, and in the morning he missed his purse, which contained four sovereigns, twenty shillings in silver, and a pocket book containing memorandums.

296 November 19 1853

THE CHOLERA IN LEICESTER This week Leicester has got into the "Black Book" at the General Board of Health, one case of Asiatic cholera having been recorded therein. We are glad to learn it is a solitary case ; and that, humanly speaking, there is no probability of the disease spreading in the town. The name of the deceased was **Richard Hincks**, who lived at the Old Hare Yard, in the North. We understand that he was a stout healthy man about twenty five years of age ; but that he was of irregular habits, having been a boatman, and was addicted to drinking. On the day he was seized (Friday in last week) he was indulging in this way in a public house, and he then complained of his body being in a bad condition. It does not appear that he received the prompt attention he should have done. He was not seen until some hours after being seized, when Mr Bowmar, who was visiting in the neighbourhood, was requested to step in and look at the man. He did so, and at once gave his opinion that he was suffering from the Asiatic cholera. He was lying in a miserable garret without any fire in it. Mr Bowmar at once ordered the patient to be wrapped up warmly and a fire to be put in the room. Mr Lilley, the medical officer of the district, was sent to attend him ; and when he arrived, the disease had proceeded so far that there was no hope of saving the man's life, and he died on Sunday morning at an early hour. The body was removed from the premises the same day, and the necessary precautions were taken. The case appeared gazetted in the daily papers on Tuesday morning in the returns from the General Board of Health. It will be seen by the following report of the proceedings at the Guardians on Tuesday that the case was reported to the Board, and that the Guardians are prepared to act promptly in cases where a difficulty is experienced in removing nuisances, many of which exist in the town.

At the meeting of the Guardians on Tuesday last, a discussion took place upon the state of the house, the existence of nuisances in the town, and upon the above case of cholera. The following is a report of what took place :-

Mr Stallard (the house surgeon) attended, and called the attention of the guardians to the impurity of the atmosphere in the house. He said he thought the guardians should be acquainted with the dreadfully offensive state of the house from that cause. He had noticed the same thing before, and it was now quite as bad as ever it had been. It was very bad on Monday, and none of the guardians could have entered the house that (Tuesday) night without perceiving it at once. The offensive smell prevailed throughout the whole house ; and, as he thought purity of the atmosphere was a very essential point to be maintained, especially in these times, too great attention could not be paid to

the matter. He had carefully looked over the house, and there was nothing to complain of but the offensive state of the atmosphere, arising from the impurity of the gas.

297 December 31 1853

TOWN HALL, TUESDAY DECEMBER 27 **John Sabin** (a boatman) was charged by a man named Forknall, his father-in-law, with assaulting him in Royal East Street by striking him on his face and giving him a black eye. It appears that some family dispute had taken place, and upon complainant ordering his son-in-law to leave, he “ups with his fisses and hits him a stunning blow on his eye”. Fined 7s 6d.

298 January 14 1854

STATISTICS OF RECENT BOROUGH CRIME An analysis of the calendar of the borough prisoners tried last week adds information of an important and interesting nature. First with respect to the education of the prisoners :- Against 13 “*well*” was affixed denoting a good education, against seven “*imperfect*”, against six “*read*” and three could neither read nor write. The occupations of the prisoners are thus classified :-

Framework knitters	6	Gardener	1
Labourers	5	Wood turner	1
Boatmen	3	Blacksmith	1
Butchers	2	Carpenter	1
Grocers' porters	2	Carpet weaver	1
Bakers	2	Confectioner	1
Woolsorter	1	Plumber	1
Shoemaker	1	Hairdresser	1
Bookseller	1		

The ages of the prisoners ranged as follows :-

1	aged 15	2	aged 29
1	aged 16	1	aged 33
1	aged 17	1	aged 40
3	aged 18	1	aged 43
4	aged 19	1	aged 48
3	aged 20	1	aged 50
3	aged 21	1	aged 52
1	aged 22	1	aged 58
1	aged 23	1	aged 62

299 January 21 1854

INQUEST AT LOUGHBOROUGH On Monday, an inquest was held on the body of **Charlotte Church**, aged 11 years, the daughter of **Charles Church**, a boatman of Leicester. The deceased was with her father and the boat, and they had arrived at Loughborough on their way to Leicester from Hallam with a load of coals. The girl was sent out of the boat by her parents, on Sunday afternoon, to fill the tea kettle at the pump in the public house yard close by ; but instead of going to the pump, she leaned over the end of the boat to fill the kettle out of the canal, and losing her balance, fell into the water and was drowned. The jury returned a verdict of “Accidental death”.

300 February 18 1854

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH, FEBRUARY 11 **Joseph Squires** of Mountsorrel, boatman, and Matthew Smith of the same place, were charged with having, on the 10th inst, stolen from a field at Rothley a bundle of kids value 3d, the property of Thomas Harbuckle of Rothley, farmer ; but Mr Harbuckle refusing to prosecute, the prisoners were discharged.

301 April 1 1854

DISPUTE BETWEEN BOATMEN A captain of a boat was charged by a young man named **Edward Russell** with non payment of wages amounting to 7s 6d. The defence was that complainant had neglected his work, but defendant admitted he had been away from his boat and therefore could not tell when complainant was there. A policeman was sent out with the parties to arrange.

302 April 8 1854

THE WHETSTONE SHEEP STEALING CASE **Richard Savins** (49), boatman, and **John Savins** (20), boatman, were charged with stealing a sheep on the 17th of March at Whetstone, the property of Thomas Cooper. The prosecution was conducted by Mr Cockle.

Mr Cooper said he was a farmer residing at Whetstone. On Friday night, March 17th, about seven o'clock, he saw his sheep all right, but on the next day he saw some blood in an adjoining field, and removed his sheep. At the time he saw his sheep safe, he saw a cart with a pony and a dog, and the two prisoners in the lane near his gate. On Monday March 19th, PC Ward showed him the skin produced. It was the skin of the sheep he had missed. Knew it by the tar mark and by other marks. A shepherd named John Matthews said he was servant to prosecutor, and about six o'clock on Sunday morning he missed the sheep. He found the gate of the field about a foot open.

John Phipps, bricklayer of Whetstone, proved that he saw prisoners with a pony, a cart and three dogs at Cosby on Friday evening. About seven o'clock he saw them against Mr Cooper's field, and they were eating bread and bacon.

John Bacon of the New Inn, Cosby, proved that he saw the prisoners pass down the street on the day in question, with the pony, cart and dogs.

Mr Weston, butcher, Nicholas Street, Leicester, said he remembered the prisoners coming to his shop on the morning of Saturday the 18th of March. They brought the skin produced. They asked 4s 6d for it. He offered 3s 6d and afterwards he agreed to give 3s 9d for it. Witness gave information to the police on March 20th, and gave the skin to PC Ward. Two shank bones were afterwards produced by PC Ward. Witness compared them with the skin, and he found they fitted the joint. A piece of the breast was afterwards shown to him by Parks, and it appeared weak meat, and his opinion was that it had come from a skin similar to the one produced. He found on one part of the breast a little of the fat missing, which he found on the skin, and this left no doubt that the breast came from the skin produced. The meat had not been properly butchered by a tradesman.

Abraham Evans, butcher, Highcross Street, said he had examined the shank bones, which corresponded with the skin. On one of the shank bones there was a piece of wool, which was missing from the skin. He had not the least doubt that the skin, bones, &c all came from one sheep, and that the sheep had not been dressed by a butcher.

PC Parks deposed that on the morning of Sunday March 19th, he found wheel marks against Mr Cooper's field, and in one corner of it there was a quantity of blood, and a bit of wool on the stile. In Mr Heyrick's field adjoining there was another pool of blood. Went afterwards in search of Richard Savins and apprehended him at his house in Charlotte Street, Leicester. Neither of the prisoners are butchers. Searched Richard Savins's house and found some bacon. Prisoner said he had a bit of cooked meat. Found several joints of meat in a pancheon on a shelf; amongst them was a neck of mutton, a breast, part of a loin, a portion of the leg, and some fat. Asked the prisoner where he got it from, and he made no reply. He also refused to say where he had bought it from. Then charged him with slaughtering the sheep and stealing it from Whetstone, and prisoner denied being there at all. He said he had been in Cosby selling sand on Friday, but he passed through Narborough toll gate at nine o'clock at night.

PC Clarke proved that he found the shank bones produced and the kull in Richard Savin's house. Searched John Savin's house, but found no fat there, nor any meat. Apprehended John Savins the next morning on the Belgrave Road, as he was coming into the town. He denied stealing the sheep, and said that they only had one sheep, which they bought at Willoughby the Friday before, and Mr Hubbard could clear them about that.

Mr Hubbard was called, and proved that the prisoners did buy a sheep of them, but it was three weeks ago, and that was an ewe which died in lambing, whereas the skin sold by prisoner to Mr Weston was a lamb hog skin.

The prisoners called witnesses to prove that they saw them on the road home on the night in question, and did not see any sheep in the cart. Their witnesses tended to supply the wanting link in the evidence, for they proved beyond all doubt that it was the prisoners who were with the cart and pony and the dogs on the night in question they met with them on the road from Whetstone, and about a mile from that place. The elder prisoner, in his defence, said he bought the skin for 3s 6d and sold it for 3s 9d, and that they spent the 3d on a pint of ale. The younger prisoner, in his defence, made a very extraordinary statement. In his attempt to screen himself, he tried to throw the offence on his father, and said his father told him that he went back and did the job the night after they got home, and that he found him in bed early in the morning immediately after his return. He afterwards said his father told him he had bought the skin, and then he said he went with his father to buy it. These observations were pressed upon the Court by the prisoner during the time the learned Chairman was summing up the evidence.

The jury almost immediately found the prisoners guilty.

A previous conviction was proved against the younger prisoner for stealing meat in 1853, by sending a dog into a shop in Churchgate to fetch a piece of meat out. Other charges and convictions were also read over, and he was sentenced to six years penal servitude. The elder prisoner was sentenced to four years penal servitude.

303 April 18 1854

CASE OF DROWNING AT MOUNTSORREL On Monday an inquest was held on the body of **George Swain**, aged three years, son of **Thomas Swain** of Mountsorrel, boatman, who went down Sibley Lane with some other children to gather buttercups, and fell into the water while playing by the side with a stick. The child was drowned before he was got out, though he was found in an upright position in four feet of water. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

304 June 10 1854

TOWN HALL, MONDAY JUNE 5

HOUSEBREAKING **Richard Merryman** was charged with breaking into the house of **James Rigley** in Britannia Street, and stealing therein a handkerchief and a waistcoat. Prosecutor is a boatman, and prisoner, who is an acquaintance of his, watched his opportunity, and when prosecutor had gone with his boats, effected an entrance by the window and committed the robbery. He was apprehended at Loughborough by PC M Briggs of the County force. He was committed for trial at the Sessions.

305 July 1 1854

MIDSUMMER SESSIONS **Richard Merriman** (17), boatman, pleaded guilty to breaking into the dwelling house of **James Ryley(Rigley?)** and stealing therein a handkerchief and a waistcoat, his property, and was sentenced to four months hard labour.

Thomas Ashley (32), boatman, was charged with obtaining by false pretences on the 2nd of December at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, from the Moira Colliery Company, 24 1/2 tons of coals, value £13 9s 7d, the property of the guardians of the Marquis of Hastings. He was sentenced to three months hard labour.

306 July 22 1854

LEICESTER MIDSUMMER SESSIONS

WHOLESALE ROBBERY OF LEAD **William Adnutt** (22), boatman, and William Miles (21), labourer, were charged with stealing, on the 12th of July 1854, 168 lbs of lead, the property of Mr John Dove Harris. A second count in the indictment stated the lead to be the property of Mr William Kelly. They were also charged with receiving the lead, knowing it to be stolen ; and Adnutt

was charged with having been previously convicted of felony, in January 1854, at the Leicester borough sessions. Mr Simpson prosecuted, and called John Hull, an overlooker in the employ of Messrs John Dove and Richard Harris, who occupy a factory near the Bow Bridge. It had not been used during the present month. The factory is close by the river, which runs at the back of it. Was at the factory at the latter end of May or beginning of June, and the boiler and lead were all safe at that time. The cistern which is over the boiler was also quite right. On the morning of July 14th, witness went with PS Smith and Mr Catlin, plumber, to the place at the factory where the boiler was, and found that the lead piping leading from the boiler to the cistern was gone. Catlin and Smith then brought some lead piping, which they compared, and the piping fitted exactly with the stains on the wall. (By Adnutt) Never saw Adnutt about the premises, nor did he see him bring anything off the premises.

James Wood said : I work at the Coal Wharf near the Bow Bridge factory. I know the two prisoners. There is a slip of ground between the factory and the river, and I saw both the prisoners on it the week before last. That was a little after five o'clock in the afternoon. The prisoners could only get on to that strip of ground by going across the river. The water is deep. There is one narrow place about two yards wide. I cannot say how they got across. There is a flat or raft kept, on which "slack" is carried over to the factory. There is a wall in Watt's Causeway over which they could have got at the front of the building, but the river is at the back of the building. (By Adnutt) I never saw you bring any lead off the ground, or pick anything up.

William Skelshaw said : I am a labourer on the wharf near the factory. About five o'clock on the 3rd of July (Friday morning), I saw Adnutt and another man between the Soar Lane bridge and the wharf. They were about a couple of hundred yards from the factory. In a few minutes Miles came up and joined. I said to Miles, "There is something up, as you are here so soon in the morning"; and Miles said to me, "Oh, you are a b--- fool". Miles went to the other men, and after staying half a minute Miles came back, and went to the back of a waggon in the wharf and fetched a barrow, which he set down at the end of a hut, where the men have their victuals. This was about 100 yards from the place where Adnutt and the other man were. Miles then took the barrow to the other two men who had called him. When Miles had taken the barrow, he came back again and went into the hut. Adnutt and the other man lifted something into the barrow, but I cannot say what it was. It appeared to be a bag of something heavy. The parcel came from the other side of Soar Lane bridge, where the two men had been standing, and about 200 yards from the factory. Adnutt and the other man wheeled the barrow off along the towing-path and towards the North gates. Miles remained in the hut and helped to load a boat after that. Afterwards I met Adnutt with the empty barrow coming into the wharf. (By Adnutt) I never saw you on the premises, and never saw you carry anything from there. I never saw you with any lead, and did not say that I did.

Hannah Sewell said : I live in Judy (?) Wall Street, near St Nicholas's Church. I lodge with Miles's mother. Miles lodges up the same entry with his sister. On the morning of the 15th of July, I saw Adnutt and another "chap" at six o'clock, bring a bag up the yard and throw it into Miles's garden. They brought the bag on a wheelbarrow, which I saw standing at the bottom of the entry.

Alfred Catlin deposed as follows : I am a plumber, in my father's employ at Leicester. At nine o'clock in the morning of the 13th of July, Adnutt came to my house and said Miles wanted to see me. I said, "Very well : I shall be up at the office in an hour's time". Adnutt then went away. Before this, I had not heard of any lead being stolen. At ten o'clock I was at my office, and Adnutt came and said Miles would be up directly. He went away, and Miles came in a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes. Miles said he had got some lead to sell me, which he would send up ; and if I did not send him the money down, I was to send down a ticket with the weight on it, and the amount that the lead would come to. I said I would do so. In about twenty minutes after, Adnutt brought up the lead in a sack bag on a barrow. I saw him take it out of the barrow, and he opened it in my presence and took out some lead piping. He said that was the lead that Miles had sent him up with. I asked him where he had it from, and he said it came in a boat from Staffordshire that morning. I then weighed the lead, and it came to 168 lbs. The bag was wet and had some dirt in it. When the lead came out, a live horse leech came out on one of the pieces, and it appeared as if it had been in

the water. I gave Adnutt a ticket with the weight on it and the price that it came to. Sergeant Smith came in and looked at the lead. On my road to dinner, I met Adnutt on the West bridge, and Miles was coming up behind him. Adnutt said, "Miles is coming". I told them I had not seen my father at present, but if they would come up after dinner they could have it settled. I afterwards delivered the lead to Sergeant Haynes. The lead produced corresponded with places at the factory. One piece corresponded with a place where it had been twisted off. At the factory he found a window open on the river side of the factory. The window had been forced in from the outside, and lay broken to pieces on the floor. On the slip of land by the side of the factory, he found a piece of piping with a tap attached, which corresponded with the boiler in the factory, and with one of the pieces which the prisoner brought. The pieces of lead they brought had been twisted off and not cut with a clip knife, as a workman would cut them. The marks on the lead fitted with the stays in the wall exactly. On the sill of the doorway into the boiler house, there were marks made by someone sitting with wide cord trousers. When Adnutt was taken into custody, he had cord trousers on. The witness took these trousers to the door sill and compared them with the marks he found – they exactly corresponded. (Sergeant Smith produced a ticket). This torn paper consisted of the fragments of the ticket he gave to the prisoner Adnutt. It had on it "old lead, one cwt and a half, £1 8s 0d".

Sergeant Haynes said : On the 13th of July, I received from Mr Catlin the lead piping I now produce. I went with him and Smith to the Bow Bridge factory, and found a quantity of lead piping missing. I found some stays on the wall, and that the missing lead had been twisted from the part left.

Sergeant Smith deposed : On the morning of the 13th of July, after seeing Mr Catlin, I and Greaves went to watch on the West Bridge. We saw Adnutt and Miles come up to Mr Catlin on the bridge. I saw Miles go away with Catlin, and I then went up to Adnutt. I asked him if he had sold any lead that morning. He said, "No". I asked him if he had sent anyone to sell lead that morning, and he said, "No, not a bit". I charged him with stealing 150 lbs of piping from some person unknown. As we were going to the station, the prisoner took something from his pocket and tore it up. I took him into a house, and got the pieces of paper from him : they were the pieces of ticket I have produced. I was at the station house when Miles was brought in and charged. Miles said, "I had nothing to do with the stealing of it ; Adnutt came to me and asked me to sell it for him". I then went to the premises with Haynes, and found the premises as described by Haynes. I found foot marks of two persons on the premises.

PC Greaves proved as follows : I was with Sergeant Smith on the West Bridge, and apprehended Miles. I asked him if he had sold any lead that morning, and he said, "No". He said, "Adnutt had come to him before he was up that morning, and wanted him to sell some lead for him at Catlin's".

The prisoners' statements before the Magistrates were put in. Miles stated that Adnutt came to him and wanted him to get up. He said he had found some lead in the canal and wanted him to go and look at it. He did so, and he went. While he was away, the lead was taken to his garden, and Adnutt wanted him to sell it, and he assisted him in wheeling it. Adnutt's statement was that he found the lead in the water, and said nothing about it to anyone for a time, but the next morning he went to Miles's and stated he knew where they could sell it : and they sold it accordingly. Adnutt now repeated his statement, and Miles declined saying anything.

His Lordship having summed up, the Jury found both the prisoners guilty of larceny.

The previous conviction was proved against Adnutt by Mr Noon. The conviction was for stealing 20 lbs of rope, for which the prisoner underwent three months imprisonment. Adnutt was sentenced to two years hard labour, and Miles to six months hard labour.

307 August 5 1854

HINCKLEY PETTY SESSIONS John alias Burke Bounsley charged **John Mason**, a boatman, with an assault at Hinckley on the 18th July. Complainant said he was at the Ram public house on the day in question, and without any provocation the defendant struck him five or six times with his fists, and made him bleed very much. Defendant denied the charge, and said he had some witnesses to prove that he did not commit any assault. The complainant summoned William Paul, a sawyer, to prove the case ; but he came nearly intoxicated, refused to give evidence, and was committed for

seven days. The case was subsequently proved to the satisfaction of the court, and defendant was fined 5s and 15s costs.

308 August 12 1854

ROBBERY BY LEICESTERSHIRE BOATMEN **William Hardy**, aged 25, of Loughborough, **William Saving**, 20 of Leicester, **William Robinson**, aged 50, of Leicester, **John Patrick**, 23, of Leicester, and two boatmen from Derbyshire and Warwickshire, have absconded from the service of the Grand Junction Canal Company, charged (in company with two others, who are committed for trial) with stealing, on the 28th of July, 160 lbs of tea, the property of the above company, at Hemel Hempstead. The above men formed the crew of the two boats from which the tea was stolen.

309 August 19 1854

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH, AUGUST 10 **John Clayton** of Castle Donington, boatman, and his mother **Maria Clayton**, of the same place, were both charged with having, on the 5th instant, at that place, assaulted Francis Hunt, hawker. Complaint withdrawn.

310 August 26 1854

COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICE, SATURDAY AUGUST 19

GARDEN ROBBING AT BELGRAVE **Charles Hawke**, a Leicester youth, who described himself as an orphan boatman out of employ, was charged with stealing some potatoes growing in a field at Belgrave, the property of Mr Harrison. The defendant was taken into custody by PC Langham of the Borough force, soon after the commission of the offence. A witness deposed to seeing defendant and others go into Mr Harrison's field near the Willow bridge. He stood and watched them until they had pulled up as many potatoes as they took a fancy to, and they then went towards Leicester, this witness following them, until he gave the defendant into the custody of PC Langham. The other depredators escaped. Defendant admitted being in the field, but denied pulling any roots up. It wasn't him, it was the others. Fined 10s including costs, or seven days hard labour.

311 August 26 1854

TOWN HALL, SATURDAY AUGUST 19

A PUBLIC HOUSE CAROUSAL Emma Fray was charged by **Francis Revell**, boatman, with stealing £1 18s from his person. The prosecutor stated that he met with the prisoner about two o'clock on Wednesday. He had never seen her before, but she spoke to him and they got into conversation. He left her in the Market Place, and she followed him. They got into conversation again and went towards the Welford Road, where they went into a beer house and had two pints of ale. They then went to Mr Bull's public house (the Freeman's Arms), where he played at skittles and lost a shillingworth of ale. He had four glasses of ale afterwards with the prisoner in the house, and paid a shilling for that. He had spent one shilling in ale before he went to play at skittles. After he had played, he changed a sovereign to pay for the drink. When he went into the house he had two sovereigns and two sixpences, and he spent 3s there. He kept his purse in his right hand trousers pocket. After having his drink, he fell asleep in the tap room. He did not remember waking, but he did remember leaving the house. He could not say whether the prisoner was with him or not. He left to go to his boat, and when he got part of the way up Welford Road, he found that his purse and money were all gone. The woman was not with him then. He did not return to the public house, nor did he inform the police, but went on to his boat and left Leicester that night on a voyage. On Saturday morning he returned to Leicester, and after dinner he went to the public house again. When he had been in there a few minutes, the landlord said, "How did you find your pocket that night?" He told him he had missed all his money, and Mr Bull then told him the prisoner had taken it. Witness went for a young man who had seen the prisoner with him, and he gave information to the police. He went to the house in Bedford Street where the prisoner lived, the young man he met with telling him where she lived and all about her. When he saw her, he asked her if she intended to give him the money of which she had robbed him, and she said she did

not have the money and knew nothing about it. He asked her how she got home that night, and she said she did not know as she was very fresh. He told her if she did not give him the money he should send a policeman to her, and she replied that she should not give him it, as she knew nothing at all about it. Witness then took a policeman to the prisoner's house and put her in charge for pocket picking. The purse produced was his, and had got his name on it. Thomas Bull, of No 7 Aylestone Road, deposed that he keeps the Freeman's Arms public house. On Wednesday, he saw the prosecutor and prisoner come into his house. Prosecutor was sober when he came in. He and the prisoner had some liquor and ale, and they sat together in the tap room after the prosecutor had done playing at skittles. They wanted more liquor and, as the prosecutor was rather fresh, he declined letting him have any. The prosecutor fell asleep and the woman was sitting by him. She put her hand into his right hand pocket and pulled out a purse, emptying the contents into her hand. He saw there were two or three half crowns amongst the money, but could not say if there was any gold amongst it. Witness told her he thought she had no right to do that, and the woman said, "You have nothing at all to do with it ; he is my husband". The man was then roused up, and left with the woman arm in arm together. He saw no more of either of them until Saturday morning, when the prosecutor came, and he told him that the woman had taken his money. When they were in the house on Wednesday the woman was a little fresh, but not so much so as the prosecutor was. A youth named John Townsend, a winder, deposed that he found the purse on Wednesday night at the bottom of Welford Road, about 100 yards from the Freeman's Arms. PC Robert Kirkland deposed that the prosecutor came to him in Belgrave Gate on Saturday night and took him to the prisoner's house in Bedford Street. He found the prisoner, and charged her with picking Revell's pocket on Wednesday at the Freeman's Arms. She said she knew nothing about it, but she knew when she went away from home, and when she came back. The prisoner's defence now was that she was sure she did not know anything about it. Her mother knew that she had no money when she went home, and they might make it up. She wished her mother to be called. Fanny Fray, the mother of the prisoner, deposed that her husband is a gin maker, and that the prisoner lived with her. On Wednesday, her daughter went out about eleven o'clock in the morning, and had not a farthing about her. About eight o'clock in the evening, she was sent for to fetch her daughter home. She found her in Baker Street, Belgrave Gate, and she was coming towards home. She was so drunk that she could neither walk nor see, and her clothes were torn off her back. She had to get a man to assist her in leading her home. She had not any money about her then. The next morning she said she had been with a young man who had been treating her. The prosecutor came to her house and asked her daughter to "sup". She refused to go, and he then charged her with taking his money. They offered to make it up for a sovereign, but prosecutor did not seem satisfied with that, and then he fetched a policeman. Her daughter had not had a shilling about her all the week. Committed for trial at the sessions.

312 September 2 1854

BURBAGE HOUSE (before J S Crossland Esq) On the 28th ult, **Thomas Beresford**, a boatman, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Hinckley at one o'clock on Sunday morning, and was fined 5s and costs.

313 December 30 1854

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH (before E C Middleton Esq) – December 23rd – **John Rossall** of Loughborough, boatman, was committed for trial on a charge of having, on the 16th inst at Loughborough, feloniously stolen three deal battens, the property of George Wesley of Loughborough, timber merchant.

314 January 13 1855

TOWN HALL, WEDNESDAY

ROBBERY OF COAL FROM THE WEST BRIDGE WHARF **Captain John Smith, William Richardson** and **John Mansfield** (three boatmen) were charged with stealing coals, the property of

Messrs John Ellis and Son, from the West Bridge Wharf. A man named Newton, in the employ of Mr Ellis, proved that he missed about four cwt of coals from a corner of the waggon, on Tuesday morning. The prisoner Smith works a wide boat on the canal, and the other prisoners were his assistants. PC Thomas Ward, of the County police, searched the boat under Smith's care, in consequence of receiving a search warrant to do so. Found more than three cwt of coal in the hole of the boat. Smith said that he had begged the coal, but did not know whom he begged it of. It was Snibstone coal of the description of that taken from the wharf. The prisoner afterwards said he had some of the coal given to him at Saddington tunnel by a man named Bond, and some of it at Crow Mill Pond. He said the man at Saddington gave him the piece of coal to let him go through the tunnel first, and that the coal at Crow Mill Pond was given him by a man to let him pass through the lock first. More than one description of coal was found in the boat. There was Snibstone, Derbyshire and Coleorton coal ; but the bulk was Snibstone coal. Boats frequently went up the canal loaded with Snibstone coal. It appeared that this boat passed the waggon from which the coal was missed. There not being sufficient evidence, the prisoners were discharged.

315 March 24 1855

TOWN HALL MONDAY MARCH 19

ROBBERY FROM A BOAT **John Pickens** was charged by **Thomas Bland** with stealing a pair of boots, some tea, sugar and several articles of wearing apparel. The parties are both boatmen, and prisoner asked on Saturday to lie on the sideboard in the cabin of complainant's boat, which was lying at the West Bridge. This was on Saturday night. On Sunday morning the defendant left the boat, and on Monday morning complainant missed the articles prisoner was charged with stealing. The prisoner was found on Monday morning at a house kept by a man named Vincent in Redcross Street. The prisoner had then on the slop, handkerchief and shoes that had been stolen. The groceries and other articles were found upstairs. PC Powell proved that when he went to Vincent's house, he found the prisoner sitting by the fire, and when he charged him with stealing the things, he admitted he had done so. Committed for trial.

316 April 7 1855

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, MARCH 29 **William Jeffcoat** of Loughborough, boatman, who had been charged by Frederick Cragg, gamekeeper, with night poaching on the 17th March, in company with Thomas Holt (who was last week convicted of the offence) was discharged and 10s allowed him for loss of time as, on his appearing, the charge was withdrawn, Cragg saying he was mistaken in the man.

George Walker of Loughborough, coal dealer, charged **Thomas Bradshaw** of the same place, boatman, with having assaulted him on the 26th March. Defendant did not appear, but on the evidence of the complainant, he was convicted in a penalty of 20s, including costs.

317 April 21 1855

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH **Thomas Humber** of Quorndon, boatman, was charged with having on the 24th ult created a disturbance on a public highway. Defendant was ordered to be bound in sureties to keep the peace for three months.

318 July 7 1855

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH, JULY 2 **William Feasant** and **John Clayton**, two boatmen of Castle Donington, were remanded on a charge of stealing a cheese strainer, the property of John Kilbourne, a farmer.

319 August 25 1855

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY AUGUST 16 **Sarah Wogdale**, wife of **John Wogdale**, boatman, charged Thomas Wogdale (her brother-in-law) with having violently assaulted and beaten her on the 18th day of July. The parties appear to have recently received certain

legacies, and to have been spending freely that which came easily. On the 18th ult, “John Barleycorn” got the ascendancy, when defendant, who is a “rough”, used his brute force upon the complainant. The bench adjourned the case a fortnight ago, because the complainant was unable to attend, and placed the defendant and his mother under bond for his appearance. Having heard the evidence, Mr Dawson not only read the defendant a severe lecture in words, but closed it with announcing that the bench had decided to fine him £10 including costs, or to be imprisoned and held to hard labour for three months. Defendant, in a coarse, negligent manner, said, “That's an easy way of peeing”, and sat down on the penitent bench and emptied his pockets of cash to a female.

320 September 8 1855

COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICE, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1

DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO BOATMEN **John Shiers**, boatman of Leicester, was charged with assaulting **John Mansfield**, another boatman, at Birstall. The charge was withdrawn.

321 September 8 1855

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, LOUGHBOROUGH SEPTEMBER 1 **Thomas Osbourne**, **George Bryan** and **James Barber**, all boatmen in the employ of the Grand Junction Canal Company, were remanded on suspicion of stealing two turkeys, of the value of 10s, on the night of the 3rd inst, from the premises of Mr Edward Cooper, miller of Sileby.

322 September 15 1855

STEALING TURKEYS AT SILEBY MILL On Saturday last, two boatmen were taken before E C Middleton Esq at Loughborough, and committed for trial at the next quarter sessions, on a charge of stealing two turkeys, the property of Mr Cooper of Sileby Mill. Sileby Mill is on the river Soar, and the canal between Loughborough and Leicester passes close by it. On Monday evening, one of Mr Cooper's men put three turkeys up for the night, but instead of locking the door of the place in which they were kept, he merely pegged it with a piece of stick. Early next morning, two of the turkeys were missing. Police-Constable Bosworth was sent for from Mountsorrel, and he was not long in ascertaining that a boat had passed up the canal towards Leicester, about midnight. He at once drove to Leicester, and went on board a boat where he saw a man mopping. While talking to the captain of this boat he perceived that the man who was mopping dropped something overboard, and stepping to the spot he saw a turkey rise to the surface of the water. This he speedily secured, and took the captain and two of his men into custody. At the examination on Saturday, it appeared that the captain, who bears a good character, was shown to have been asleep when the boat passed Sileby Mill, and he was discharged, but his men were committed for trial.

323 October 6 1855

SUDDEN DEATH AT CASTLE DONINGTON On the 28th ult, an inquest was held on the body of **Charlotte Whitacre**, aged 52 years, wife of **William Whitacre**, a boatman, who died suddenly in bed on the previous day. She had on that day been attending the funeral of her son, and it is imagined that death resulted from old standing disease of the heart, possibly hastened by the mental distress and excitement attendant upon the death and burial of her son. A verdict of “Natural causes” was returned.

324 October 6 1855

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27 **Thomas Humber** of Quorndon, boatman, was summoned for two poor rates, which were ordered to be paid in four weeks.

325 October 27 1855

CLIMBING BOYS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LEICESTER CHRONICLE

SIR – Walking up Newarke Street early this morning, I met a little sweep limping along in tears, and evidently suffering from acute pain. Stopping the child, I noticed one of its feet was bandaged and, on a closer examination, there was found to be an open sore on the top of its foot of no inconsiderable size.

Very reluctantly, the little fellow informed me that he had already this morning been compelled to sweep three chimneys ; and he was evidently in great trouble at the prospect of the torture he was about to undergo in sweeping a fourth.

The child was taken before the Mayor and Magistrates at the Town Hall, and they, after remonstrating with his master, ordered him to be removed to the Union House, that he might receive proper medical care.

The object I have in view is calling the attention of the public by your assistance in this case, in the hope that it may lead to a consideration, and possibly the ABANDONMENT OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF EMPLOYING CLIMBING BOYS OR SWEEPS IN LEICESTER.

I believe that many of these children are orphans, or those whose parents have lost all proper feeling for their offspring. In this case of the child before the Magistrates this morning, it appears that his father has been dead for some years, that his mother is married a second time, and that living in the country, she had (doubtless for a consideration) handed over her child at the tender age of seven years or thereabouts to the care of a master chimney sweep. What is the remedy? Let every householder order his chimneys to be *swept by a machine*, and *steadily refuse* to allow climbing boys to enter his premises, and I have no doubt that his chimneys will be as well cleaned (and I speak from experience) and at as small a cost as by employing poor little outcast children, who must necessarily pass through the hardships (may I not say cruelties) *inseparable* from the present system. Many of the master sweepers would, I believe, be glad to use the machines altogether, but unless supported by the public, they are unable to dispense with the children.

Besides, the practice is *illegal*. If I had pressed for a fine this morning, I believe the Magistrates would have had no alternative, after hearing the evidence, but to inflict a fine of not less than five pounds upon the master sweep ; but seeing that it is the general practice to employ these boys, it would have been clearly unjust to inflict a fine for sweeping chimneys instead of for cruelty to the child.

Every *householder*, knowingly allowing these children to be employed on his premises for the purpose of ascending a chimney or flue, is liable to a penalty of not less than five pounds for each offence.

The system has, I believe, been abandoned in many large towns. I trust I shall be excused for asking why it should be continued in Leicester?

Very respectfully yours,

E S ELLIS

22nd October 1855

326 October 27 1855

TOWN HALL MONDAY OCTOBER 22

OBTAINING MONEY BY FALSE PRETENCES **John Cox** was charged by George Parr with obtaining money by false pretences. Prisoner is a boatman to Mr W Gleadow, and obtained money twice over on a voyage by making false statements. Ordered to appear again in a week, and discharged on his own recognisance in £20, and one surety in £20.

327 November 17 1855

COUNTY COURT, LEICESTER DISTRICT, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 13 Bennett v **John Hall**.

A summons on a judgement for the payment of £2 8s 4d by 3s a month. Only 11s had been paid. The defendant is a labourer or boatman. Ordered to pay one instalment and the costs of the

summons, or be committed for three weeks, for not appearing, if the payments are not made in a month.