

**MANCHESTER COURIER AND GENERAL ADVERTISER
1856 to 1885**

1 5 January 1856 Manchester City Court

STEALING IRON FROM A BOAT Two young men named James Wynn and George Cooper, were charged with stealing two cwt of pig iron from a boat belonging to **Mr Joel Carrington**, carrier between Runcorn and Oldham. The prisoners were taken into custody about half past five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon when offering the iron for sale at a marine store. A boatman in Mr Carrington's employ said that on Monday night both prisoners assisted him to get his boat through several locks on the canal in Ancoats, but he did not see them throw any iron on shore, although they had plenty of opportunity of doing so. The iron produced was of a similar description to that which he had in his boat, and the "pigs" bore the same mark. He had brought the iron from Runcorn, and was taking it to Oldham. The prisoners, in defence, said that they had found the iron, and were committed for trial to the sessions.

2 26 January 1856

FATALITY A boatman named **George Upton** was drowned in the canal near the Castleford Wharf on Saturday. He had been sick on the previous night, and it is conjectured that on going to the side of the boat, he accidentally fell overboard. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned at the inquest.

3 9 February 1856 Ashton and Stalybridge

POLICE COURT Martha Savage was charged with stealing about 23 yards of print and calico, with several articles of wearing apparel, to the value of about 9s, the property of **Thomas Robinson**, boatman, Droylsden. The prisoner, being destitute, was allowed to sleep on Robinson's sofa, and in the morning she decamped with the above property, taking a part of it to her lodgings in Manchester, and stating that her aunt had given it to her, and pawning two pieces of print. She was committed for trial.

4 16 February 1856 Warrington

POLICE COURT On Monday, a woman of bad character named Emma Bradley was sent to Kirkdale for three months hard labour for stealing a purse containing two sovereigns and a gold wedding ring from **Thomas Whitfield**, a "flatman" both by nature and profession.

5 1 March 1856

FATALITIES IN MANCHESTER At the Welcome Inn beerhouse, Fleet Street, Deansgate, on Tuesday, a woman named **Mary Haddock** was killed by falling from the top to the bottom of the stairs. The inquest was held the same afternoon by Mr Herford, the city coroner. The deceased was about 50 years of age, and the wife of a boatman living at Northwich. She had been a week at the Welcome Inn, "drinking a good deal" with another woman; and she went upstairs to fetch a pair of clogs to give to the woman, who was at that time sleeping in a room downstairs. The deceased, however, was sober at the time. She never spoke after falling; a surgeon was sent for immediately, but she was dead before he arrived. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

6 1 March 1856 Rochdale and Middleton

VIOLENT ASSAULT AND ATTEMPTED HIGHWAY ROBBERY At the petty sessions on Wednesday, **James Burns**, a boatman formerly employed on one of Mr Jackson's boats on the Rochdale Canal, was charged with these offences. Mrs Fitton stated that on Tuesday night at ten o'clock, she went from home to see a nephew, and taking with her a lighted lantern. On going down Thornham Lane, a man (whom she believed to be the prisoner) met her and knocked her down. He wore a dark hairy cap, and something red, like a comforter, round his neck, but what it was she did

not distinctly notice. Whilst she was down, the man covered her mouth, and seized her about the pockets. She managed, however, to call out, when some of her relatives coming up to her assistance, the man immediately left her and ran off. Her husband and brother went in search of him, and the prisoner was apprehended on board the boat, in bed, about eleven o'clock the same night. For the defence an alibi was set up. It was shown, however, that Burns, on the boat reaching Slattocks, about four miles from Rochdale, left the boat and took the horses to the stables of Mr Cheetham, a farmer, who was accustomed to receive them at 3d a night. Mrs Cheetham stated that she heard a voice call out, at the dock, a little before ten o'clock, and shortly after she heard the same voice, as it were, approaching their stables. Though called to prove the alibi, Mrs Cheetham gave evidence the other way ; as she stated that shortly after the horse had been put in the stable, the prisoner came to their house and got a quart of milk, and she noticed something red about his neck. It would be about ten minutes after ten o'clock when he left with the milk. The prisoner was committed for trial.

7 22 March 1856 Stockport

HORSE STEALING BY A TICKET OF LEAVE MAN On Thursday at the Stockport County petty sessions, before James Newton, John Wright, T W Tatton Esqrs and the Rev C K Prescott, a man named John Harrop was charged with stealing a gelding, the property of **William Curtis**, a boatman at Oxford. The prosecutor stated that he was employed on the Bridgewater Canal ; and on the night of the 27th November he put a gelding belonging to him in the stable of a beerhouse at Newton, in this county, in the occupation of Francis Kitchen. It was safe at eight o'clock at night, and he missed it between three and four the following morning. On the Monday after (the horse having been stolen on the Wednesday) he went with Mr McDonald, the special high constable of Middlewich, to the house of James Pott at Agden Bridge near Lymm, which is about 17 miles from Newton. He claimed the horse, and it was delivered up to him. It is worth £18, the money he gave for it. McDonald deposed that from information received, and in consequence of the description of the horse in the Hue and Cry, he accompanied prosecutor to Agden Bridge on the 3rd of December to the stable of Pott, who is a beerhouse keeper and also the keeper of a small provision shop there, adjoining the Bridgewater Canal, and Pott supplying the boatmen on the canal with provisions. He obtained a warrant against a man who gave the name of John Carter for stealing the horse, but who, on seeing him in the lockups on another case of horse stealing, he found to be the individual in question, and whose real name appears to be John Harrop. The warrant was read over to him, and the prisoner said it was correct ; he "had stolen the horse, and given the name of Carter to Pott". Abraham Longson, sergeant of the Stockport police, said he had known the prisoner since 1847. He was present at the sessions for Manchester in October 1849, and the prisoner was there convicted of horse stealing. The witness was likewise present at Stafford assizes in July 1850, and the prisoner was there likewise convicted of horse stealing and sentenced to ten years transportation. James Pott, who described himself as a boat proprietor, near Lymm, said the prisoner offered to sell him a dark grey gelding on the 28th November for £10, but suspecting the transaction, a constable was sent for. After the constable had put some questions he bought the gelding for £8. The gelding was delivered to the constable, and subsequently restored to William Curtis, the owner. The prisoner declined to say anything in his defence, and was fully committed to take his trial at the next Chester assizes.

8 12 April 1856 Ashton and Stalybridge

POLICE COURT William Johnson, charged with embezzling 18s 9d, the money of his employer, a boatman named **Matley**, was again brought up at the county sessions on Wednesday and committed for trial.

9 14 June 1856

A WOMAN FOUND IN THE BRIDGEWATER CANAL Early on Thursday morning, the body of a middle aged woman was found in the canal near Trafford Moss, between Stretford and Barton, the

mutilated condition of which led those who discovered it to a belief that a murder had been perpetrated ; the examination of a surgeon, however, proved that the wounds and broken bones had not been sustained during life, having most probably been caused by the canal boats. On Thursday afternoon, an inquest was held on the deceased, before Mr Rutter, coroner, at the Robin Hood Inn, Stretford. **George Dawson**, who lived at Wigan, and went with a fly boat on the canal between Wigan and Manchester, deposed that at four o'clock that (Thursday) morning, when coming with his boat towards Manchester, on arriving at the Barton Ness, half way between the Moss Bridge and Barton Bridge, in Barton, the boy who was driving the horse called out that there was a man or woman in the canal. Witness ran to the bow of the boat, and saw the body floating erect, with the face visible to the mouth. He made a grasp at the black dress which the deceased wore, but it rent. There was another boat behind, and having called out, "I have missed her", the man in the second boat made a similar attempt, and also caught hold of the dress, but it again tore. He, however, held the body with a boat hook ; and on the boats being stopped, deceased was lifted upon one of the boats, and brought forward to a building at Moss Bridge, whence it was removed to an outhouse of the Robin Hood. Mr George Stephenson, surgeon of Stretford, stated that he had made an inspection of the body that day. He thought the deceased was about 40 years of age ; she was 5ft 5in high, and wore a wedding ring. The right arm was broken in two places. There was a cut on the left side of the lower lip which went through to the lower gum. There was an irregular wound over the left eyebrow ; and another across the nose. Two of the front teeth and part of the jaw were broken. There was a wound four or five inches long on the back of the head, towards the right side ; one behind the right ear ; and a slight one on the right finger. As marks which might assist in the identification of the body, he stated that there were warts on the back of the right arm, and on the front of the left. All the ribs on the left side were broken, seven on the right side, and also the collar bone. Some of the ribs were broken in several places and crushed into the lungs. The heart was crushed and also the liver. The witness described other mutilations, adding that the state of the body generally was healthy ; and he did not think that the injuries specified took place during life – in his judgement there was nothing to indicate death but drowning ; the body might have been in the water about a week. Her clothing consisted of a black merino dress, with a full front and short gathered sleeves ; black skirt with calico waistband, fastened by a large pearl button ; white flannel petticoat ; light slate coloured good stays ; cotton chemise ; buttoned cloth boots, goloshed round ; ribbed black worsted stockings, and large red and white cotton neckerchief, with lilac flowered border and a rose in each corner. In her dress pocket were a pair of black thread gloves with elastic top, and a black purse, empty, with two black rings on it. She wore a loose pocket, and it contained a brass thimble, a small black button, a small white handkerchief, with lilac flowered border &c. The deceased appeared to have been respectable.

10 14 June 1856

A GIRL FOUND DROWNED Yesterday morning, the body of a girl about 14 years old, well dressed, was found in the canal at Barton-upon-Irwell. She is unknown, but is believed to be the daughter of the married woman whose body was found near the same place on the previous day. The fact of the bodies of three decently dressed females having been found in the Bridgewater Canal and the river Irwell within a short period, and all unclaimed by a friend or relative, is an unusual and surprising occurrence. A boatman named **Thomas Hughes** discovered the body of this girl when passing along the canal in a boat. He secured the body with his boat hook, and went to Barton for a constable, by whom it was conveyed to the Boat House Tavern, adjoining Barton Bridge. Mr W S Rutter held an inquest on the body there yesterday afternoon, when Jacob Hardman, a respectable inhabitant of Patricroft, stated that he saw a woman on Sunday evening, sitting by the side of the canal at Trafford Moss, with a girl on her knee whom he was positive was the deceased. He passed them twice, and the woman, who was dressed in a black gown (the woman found the previous day wore such a dress) was nursing the girl and trying to get her to sleep. The body of the girl when found was habited in a white straw bonnet, with white ribbon, dark frock and skirt, white trousers with lace at the bottom, white stockings and boots that buttoned, all her

clothing being good. The body did not appear to have been in the water more than a week ; one side of the face was crushed, and there was an old bruise on the left leg. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

11 9 August 1856

TWO CHILDREN DROWNED Mr Herford, city coroner, held inquests on Thursday on the bodies of two children who had fallen into the canal. George Higham, five years old, son of a porter living in Chester Road, Hulme, fell into the canal about seven o'clock on Wednesday night. A man who was crossing Duke's Fields at the time dived into the water and recovered the body, but life was extinct. A little girl, named **Jane Ellen Chapman**, whose father is a boatman and resides in Wilson's Court, Salford, was playing upon some wood near a lock on the Rochdale Canal at Alport Town on Wednesday night, when she fell in and was drowned before assistance could be procured. The verdict of the jury in each case was "Accidental death".

12 6 September 1856

Ashton and Stalybridge

STALYBRIDGE POLICE COURT **John Barker**, a boatman, was fined 40s and costs for wilfully wasting the water of the Huddersfield Canal on passing through the locks. The magistrates had no power to mitigate the penalty, but they recommended the canal company to do so.

13 25 October 1856

INSOLVENT DEBTORS to be heard at the Court House at Lancaster Castle, in the county of Lancaster, on Friday the seventh day of November 1856 at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely. **ABNER BRUNSKILL**, formerly of the Hole in the Wall, Foulridge, near Colne, in the county of Lancaster, licensed victualler, boatman, stone and cattle dealer, then of the Waggon and Horses, Great Marsden, near Burnley, in the said county, beerseller, and late in lodgings at Foulridge aforesaid, out of business.

14 29 November 1856

IMPROPER TREATMENT AND ALLEGED INHUMANITY IN A CASE OF DROWNING A man known by the appellation of "Jack" and sometimes by that of "Step-'um", probably from the circumstance of his having one leg shorter than the other, but whose real name is not known, was drowned on Sunday night in the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, near Leigh Bridge. The deceased had been known as a boatman seven or eight years, and was employed as assistant boatman by Messrs Farrington, Marshall and Co of West Leigh. He appeared to have moved the boat to the other side of the bridge and, in passing under it, the probability is that he stepped overboard, and was unable to save himself, as his body was observed in the water a little before seven o'clock. He was taken out by three or four boatmen ; and when Giles Richards, No 437 of the county constabulary, arrived, he found them holding him with his face downwards and his head hanging over the canal bank, to "let the water run out of him" - an ignorant mode of treating persons taken out of the water that we thought had long been exploded. The offices of the agent of the Bridgewater trust occupied by Mr Richard Edge were close at hand. Mr Edge heard some men call out a man had fallen into the canal; he went out, saw some men run from the opposite side of the canal and afterwards, when the body had been got out, he passed it lying on the canal side and went into the house. As the boatmen thought there was breath in the man, the officer suggested his instant removal into the office of Mr Edge. His daughter stood at the door with a candle in her hand ; and Richards asked her to let them bring the body into the office, where there was a good fire. She refused ; he asked a second time, and she replied that she would not have him there at all and closed the door in the officer's face. There was then nothing left but to place the body on a plank and take it to the nearest public house, which occupied about five minutes ; and, on their arrival, life was extinct. The above facts were stated at the inquest, held on Wednesday by Mr Price, deputy for Mr W S Rutter, county coroner. Mr Edge was a witness ; and, in reply to questions put by the deputy coroner, as to whether, considering his position, he did not think that it was his duty to have superintended the adoption of

proper means to restore animation, and, if it had been possible, save the life of the man, he said that he left the men who had got him out doing all they could, and he did not see that he was called upon to take any steps in the matter. He said that he was unaware of the request made to his daughter to allow the body to be brought into the office. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned, the jury censuring the conduct of those who objected to give shelter and assistance to the deceased.

15 6 December 1856 Ashton and Stalybridge

STEALING A COAT At the county sessions on Wednesday, **Joshua Bramner**, a boatman, was charged with stealing a coat, the property of Thomas Buntin, the brewer at the Queen's Arms, Bradford, near Manchester, on Sunday morning, from the manger in the stable where, on Saturday night, the prisoner had put up his horse, which he took away on Sunday morning, and the coat also. He was committed for one month.

16 20 December 1856 Bury

A BOATMAN DROWNED On Wednesday evening about six o'clock, a boatman named **John Woodhead**, having drawn off the lock at Ringley Bridge in the township of Pilkington, was proceeding towards his horse on the towing-path, when he accidentally fell into the canal and drowned. The body was recovered in about a quarter of an hour. Neither his friends nor former place of residence are known.

17 3 January 1857 Manchester City Court

EMBEZZLEMENT BY A BOATMAN **William Buckley**, a boatman in the employ of the Aire and Calder Carrying Company, was charged with embezzling £2 6s belonging to his employers. The manager stated that the prisoner was the captain of a boat belonging to the company, and on Monday he gave him £2 6s to pay certain dues on his voyage. Instead of leaving Manchester with his boat, he went into a disreputable house and spent the money entrusted to his care. The prisoner pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one months imprisonment with hard labour.

18 10 January 1857 Ashton and Stalybridge

POLICE COURT At the Stalybridge court on Monday, a boatman named **Samuel Bottomley** was fined 40s and costs for wasting the canal water by neglecting to shut the bottom doors of the fifth lock after passing his boat through.

19 14 March 1847

INSOLVENT DEBTORS to be heard at the Court House at Lancaster Castle in the county of Lancaster on Friday the twenty seventh day of March 1857 at the hour of eleven in the morning precisely.

BENJAMIN PARTINGTON, late of Lancashire Hill, Heaton Norris in the county of Lancaster, boatman.

20 11 April 1857

VIOLENT ASSAULT AND ROBBERY AT BARNSLEY On Monday, four men named William Barratt, William Ellicker, John Newton and Alfred Hargreaves were brought up at the Court House on remand, charged with assaulting and robbing a man named **James Squires**, a boatman. Squires was drinking at Barnsley last week with the prisoners, and is supposed to have passed Wednesday night at Ellicker's house, near where he was found helpless and wounded next morning. He vomited freely, which led to the belief that he had been poisoned. His watch, coat, a ring and about £2 had been stolen from him. The ring had been sold by one of the prisoners.

21 11 July 1857

MELANCHOLY AND FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE RIVER AT LIVERPOOL On Monday

afternoon about two o'clock, a most mournful and fatal accident occurred on the river nearly opposite the landing stage. About that hour, the Rev William Somerville of Radford in Warwickshire, being anxious to visit his son, who is fourth officer on board the *Donald McKay*, took a small boat, named the *Catherine*, to convey himself and a son younger than the one already alluded to to the ship above named. The boat was rowed by two men, named respectively **Henry Archer** and **Hugh Smith**. At the time they approached, the *Donald McKay* was being towed further up the river, and the *Catherine* was pulled athwart her bows, a proceeding attended with a great amount of peril, it being ebb tide and a strong current running at the time. This dangerous operation, however, was accomplished with safety ; but beyond the *Donald McKay* lay an unseen source of danger. At that moment, two flats accompanied the vessel up the river, when she suddenly took a "sheer" and caused the *Catherine* to be caught amidships by one of the flats, and instantly swamped. The boatman Archer sprang upon the deck of the flat and was saved ; the other three were immersed in the water and, sad to state, the Rev Mr Somerville and the boatman Smith were drowned. The deplorable occurrence having been seen by some boatmen, they immediately put out to render their assistance, and one of them named **Jones** fortunately succeeded in picking up the son of Mr Somerville, though in a state of insensibility. By the energetic use of proper restoratives, the young gentleman was restored to life and consciousness. Some time elapsed before the other bodies were got out of the water. *Liverpool Courier*.

22 18 July 1857

Wigan

FATAL FIGHT – MANSLAUGHTER On Monday, an inquest was held at the Navigation Inn, Gathurst Bridge near Wigan, on the body of a boatman named **Henry Ashton**, alias Heatley, who had been killed in a fight. Some ill feeling had existed between the deceased and his cousin, **Henry Webster**, both of them boatmen on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, in consequence of the deceased having kicked Webster while drunk and asleep at Down Holland some time ago. The two men had also fought on a previous occasion. On Saturday afternoon they met at the Pierhead, near Crook Bridge, each being in charge of his boat. Webster, as he passed on, asked Ashton why he had kicked him, and Ashton replied, "He was only sorry he had not served him ten times worse, and he would do so then, if he would come back". They then met on the canal bank, and struggled together there for some time, until Webster seeing his opponent offer to kick him, said he would not fight in that way and was about to go with his boat, when Ashton again called him back and told him to see if he could mend his work of the other day, alluding to a previous fight. Webster replied that he could "mill" Ashton, or any of his family, but he didn't want to fight him, and would rather shake hands and be friendly. Ashton, however, insisted on fighting, and they adjourned to an adjoining field for that purpose. They fought two rounds in about three or four minutes ; and on commencing the third, Webster struck the deceased two heavy blows on the left side, and one on the head. The deceased fell, and Webster retired a few yards. The deceased then rose up, but before he had assumed an erect position, he fell again. Seeing that the matter was serious, some of the bystanders fetched water and bathed the deceased's head, but in the course of a minute or two he died. Webster, seeing that fatal termination of the affray, ran up to the dead body, and kissing the face many times, lamented loudly the unhappy occurrence. He then requested that the police might be sent for, and remained by the body till an officer arrived, to whom he surrendered himself. Mr Price, surgeon, made a *post mortem* examination of the body on Monday, and attributed death to one of two causes, either concussion of the brain, the result of the blow on the head, or the shock felt by the nervous system in consequence of the blows upon the belly. The jury found a verdict of "Manslaughter" against Henry Webster, coupling with it an expression of their opinion that the prisoner had been much provoked, and that had such not been the case, he would not have fought. Webster was committed to take his trial. The deceased was a single man about 19 years of age.

23 26 September 1857

Ashton and Stalybridge

STALYBRIDGE POLICE COURT On Wednesday, **Thomas Hodgen**, captain, **Thomas Heath**, mate and **Thomas Haliburt**, boatmen, were charged with stealing four pair of stockings, ten books,

a piece of silk, a necktie and a knife from a chest of drawers which had been deposited on their boat by Mr Trelfall for conveyance to Manchester. Information having been given, Mr Sadler, chief constable, with other officers, visited a boat on Monday lying at Mr Leach's wharf, belonging to the Merchant's Company and called the *Liverpool*, where the three prisoners were found. Some of the articles were found on the prisoner Heath, and the remainder in the cabin. The property was identified by Miss Trelfall. The information had, in the first instance, been given by Mr Edward Harrop, who had seen the robbery committed whilst looking through his window, which overlooks the canal. The prisoners were severally committed to Knutsford for trial.

24 10 October 1957 Burnley

DEATH BY VIOLENCE On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the Bridge Inn, Padiham, before Mr H U Hargreaves, deputy coroner, on the body of **Jonathan Clegg** of Hapton, boatman, who died on Sunday morning, about three hours after a quarrel and struggle with Miles Whittam, a blacksmith and neighbour. The *post mortem* examination proved that disease of the heart had been the cause of death ; the surgeon (Mr R Dean of Padiham) said that the blow on the cheek had not contributed to the death of the deceased. At the conclusion of the surgeon's evidence, the inquest was adjourned to Thursday. Whittam was taken in custody to Burnley, where he was admitted to bail. At the adjourned inquest, a verdict of "Manslaughter" was returned against Miles Whittam, who was committed for trial at the assizes. The doctors agreed that passion and violence had hastened the death of the deceased. The jury recommended the prisoner to mercy.

25 5 December 1857 Lancashire Winter Assizes

ANOTHER STABBING CASE AT PARR **Sylvanus Walker**, 21, boatman, was charged with stabbing William Ratcliffe. Mr Simon prosecuted. As Ratcliffe and "his sweetheart" were returning from St Helen's fair on the 15th September, the prisoner took liberties with the young female, and in consequence an encounter took place, during which the prisoner stabbed Ratcliffe in the abdomen. Witnesses were examined for the prosecution. The surgeon stated that he found the prosecutor in great danger, which continued for four or five days, and that the wound was one which might have been made by the knife shown to him. The jury returned a verdict of Guilty of unlawfully wounding with intent to do bodily harm. The prisoner was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for two years.

26 27 February 1858 St Helens

MAN DROWNED IN THE CANAL On Sunday, the body of **Thurston Gregson**, a flatman, was found in the St Helen's Canal. On Saturday evening, he left his flat in the care of his wife, and on returning late after a drinking bout, he is supposed to have fallen in.

27 1 May 1858 Ashton and Stalybridge

WALKER v BROWNSON – A HORSE CASE The defendant was summoned for £4 18s 0d, the value of a horse. Mr Lord appeared for the defence. The evidence went to show that the plaintiff, Robert Walker of Charlestown, Ashton, a well known character who goes by the name of "Bob Stee", lent the defendant **Joseph Brownson**, a boatman, his horse for a week on the condition of returning it in as good a state for work as when he took it. During the time it was in the possessions of defendant, however, while on the towing-path near Marple, the horse was seen to fall down a stone wall three or four yards. It was brought home on the Monday following much injured, and on the Tuesday it fell down and being unable to rise again was (?) in order to put it out of its misery. A number of witnesses were called who said the horse was not worth more than a sovereign or twenty five shillings, and some merriment was created by its being said that, at their rate of value, the horse was worth more dead than alive, the plaintiff having got £1 2s 0d for it after it was taken to the tanyard. A verdict was given for the plaintiff ; damages £2 10s.

28 15 May 1858

INQUESTS At the Royal Infirmary on Monday, Mr Herford, city coroner, held an inquest on the body of the following :- **Mary Ellen Thompson**, daughter of **Josiah Thompson** of Bedford, boatman, who died in consequence of her mother, who was carrying her in her arms, falling into the canal near Cornbrook Bridge, about twelve at noon on Monday.

29 14 August 1858

South Lancashire Assizes

John Shaw, 31, boatman, pleaded guilty to a charge of breaking into the house of Mary Horton of Manchester on the 20th June last, and stealing several candlesticks and other articles. Sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour.

30 2 October 1858

Blackburn

SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF A BOATMAN On Wednesday morning, early, the body of a boatman named **William Walmsley** was found in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and in consequence of information given to the police, another boatman named **James Tasker** was apprehended on suspicion of having thrown the deceased into the water about midnight on Tuesday. It appears that the deceased was on board Tasker's boat on Tuesday night, and that he and Tasker were quarrelling. The language which was overheard was very violent and threatening ; and about ten minutes to twelve a splash was heard in the water, and then all was quiet. Tasker was brought before the magistrates on Wednesday, and remanded. Tasker's wife was on board at the time of the quarrelling, and after the splash, was seen to look over the side into the water and then go back to the cabin. She was accordingly taken into custody.

31 12 February 1859

MANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS At the ordinary weekly meeting of the board on Thursday, the consideration of the allegations of Sanitary Inspector Gifford that much of the sickness at present prevailing amongst the poorer classes of the population of this city was attributable to the practice of allowing corpses to remain too long uninterred, and that the delay in burying corpses was in many cases attributable to the negligence of the relieving officers of the township, was resumed. Captain Palin, the chief constable, had been invited to attend the meeting, but was unable to be present. Inspector Gifford was, however, in attendance. It will be remembered that at the special meeting of the board last week, the inspector presented reports of two cases, in which he stated burial had been delayed eight and nine days respectively, in consequence of the relieving officer of the district, Mr Rowe, having refused or neglected to afford the necessary parochial assistance to enable the friends of the deceased to inter the bodies. Before entering upon the business, the Chairman said it was in some respects fortunate that this investigation had taken place, for it had brought to light many attempts at imposition that were practised upon the relieving officers. As he stated last week, the guardians interred one third of the persons dying in the township ; and since then, two flagrant cases had occurred. In one, a man in regular work, earning 18s a week, came and demanded that a child should be buried, saying that he had seen one of the papers of the preceding day, and was aware that it was the duty of the guardians to bury it. He therefore insisted that the guardians must and should bury it. But the relieving officer had the courage to refuse him any assistance, and on the following day the child was interred without parochial aid. It was very desirable, as much had been said calculated to prejudice the relieving officers in the minds of the people, that the difficulties and responsibilities of their situation should be understood. Only yesterday, application was made by a lodging house keeper for the interment of a corpse lying in his house. The relieving officer (Mr Heaviside) went to see the corpse, and found it in a very good oak coffin, with shroud and everything necessary. The husband of the woman who was dead had collected money sufficient to inter the body properly, and had ordered the coffin and other things, but had since drunk the money. The lodging house keeper required the corpse to be removed from his house, and under the circumstances the relieving officer and Mr Somerset thought it best to have it brought to the workhouse, where it now remained

awaiting the order of the board respecting it. It turned out that the coffin and shroud had not been paid for, and he (the chairman) had directed the undertaker to be told that he might have them again. They were of superior quality to those supplied by the guardians, who could not, of course, be expected to pay for them. Inspector Gifford's reports were then considered. One was to the effect that on the evening of the 2nd inst, a man came to the police station and reported that the husband of Elizabeth Hurst, living in Oldham Road, had been dead seven days ; that the body was putrid ; and that she had applied to Mr Rowe, the relieving officer, but could not obtain any assistance from him. He (Gifford) went to the place next morning, and found the body in the state described. Mr Rowe's report in reference to the case was then read. It was to the effect that on Monday the 31st January, Mrs Hurst told him that her husband had died on the 28th inst, and made an application for the burial dues, stating that she had provided a coffin. He visited the place, and found the body in a good oak coffin, which he was told cost £2 12s 6d. The undertaker who conducted the funeral testified that the body was by no means putrid, and at the time he visited it, he could not discover any offensive smell. The deceased had rented a coal yard, and he was convinced there was no necessity for parochial aid. The body was interred by the friends of the deceased ; and he drew particular attention to the fact that it had been dead little more than five days instead of seven as stated by Gifford. Inspector Gifford said his reports were founded on statements made to him, and he could not vouch for their accuracy, having no means of testing them ; but he adhered to his statement that at the time he saw the body it was decidedly offensive. Mr Rowe said the undertaker affirmed that the body was not decomposed in the slightest degree, and added that many places similar to that in which the body lay were very offensive to the olfactory nerves, even when they did not contain any corpse. Inspector Gifford said he cordially concurred in the latter part of Mr Rowe's statement. Mrs Hurst was then called in, and stated that when she applied to Mr Rowe, she told him that her husband had property coming to him. She applied to Mr Rowe because people told her the town must bury the body. When she was first told so, she said he did not deserve it, for he had never been a bad husband. Mr Rowe came and saw the body on Wednesday (the 2nd instant). She was not at home, but he left word that she must go to him next morning. She had previously told him that she wanted to bury her husband on the Thursday, and she did so, without receiving anything from him. She collected the money to pay the burial fees. Her husband died on Friday and was buried on the Thursday following. She did not tell Gifford when she saw him on the 2nd inst that her husband had been dead seven days. She told him Mr Rowe kept putting her off, and there was some offensiveness about the body. Mr Rowe stated that he left word that Mrs Hurst must call upon him for the dues on the Wednesday evening after he saw the body, but she did not do so. She had told him she was expecting two sisters of the deceased over. They came, and he saw one of them, who told him she had spent £8 in providing mourning for herself in consequence of her brother's death. The second case referred to by Inspector Gifford was that of William Kershaw, an old pensioner 68 years of age, who died at the house of a woman named Martha Hargreaves in New Murray Street. Gifford's report was that he was informed on the 2nd instant that the man had been dead eight days, and on going to the house found the body in a putrid state. Mr Rowe stated that he was applied to in reference to this case on the 1st inst, being informed that death had taken place on Friday the 28th untimo. He visited the place on the 2nd instant, and told Mrs Hargreaves to come to him at nine o'clock in the morning, but she did not come until four o'clock in the afternoon, when he gave her an order for a coffin and the burial fees. He never refused to bury ; the body was not putrid, and it remained unburied only five days and a half, instead of eight, as alleged by Inspector Gifford. Mrs Hargreaves was called in and questioned. In reply to a question by Mr Rowe, she admitted receiving from Colonel Bond 30s on account of the deceased's pension, the day after his death. Mr Rowe stated that from enquiries made in the neighbourhood, he understood that the money was spent in drink and then, as a matter of course, parochial relief was applied for. The board unanimously absolved Mr Rowe from any blame in reference to either of the cases investigated, and the Chairman and several guardians expressed an opinion that before making a statement of the general character of that contained in his report to the Watch Committee of the City Council, which led to these investigations, Inspector Gifford should have ascertained that the

information upon which he relied was correct. The case of the woman who had been removed to the workhouse was then gone into. The lodging house keeper, who had applied to have the corpse removed, said the husband of the deceased was a boatman ; that in conjunction with another man, he succeeded in begging about £4 for the purpose of burying his wife, and ordered a coffin and other things, which were supplied ; but as soon as he had got the money, he went off drinking, and could not now be found. Mr Somerset stated that on Friday last (the day after the special meeting of the board), a man applied for an order for a coffin for his child and burial fees. He admitted that he was able to bury the child himself, but stated that he perceived by the papers that the guardians were bound to inter it, and he would not spend a shilling upon it. Relief was, of course, refused, and on the following day the man had the child interred at his own cost. It having been stated that an impression was entertained that the corporation had power to compel the guardians to bury the remains of those whose friends were unable or unwilling to inter them, the Chairman, in reply to a question, stated that there was no law in existence which imposed upon the guardians the duty of paying the costs of funerals in such cases ; but the law gave them a permissive power to bury if they thought proper. After some conversation, the following resolution was passed on the proposition of Mr Leppoe, seconded by Mr Hersfall :- “That the board having enquired into the cases reported by Inspector Gifford of delayed burial of dead bodies of paupers, are of opinion that in that of Elizabeth Nuttall's child, owing to an omission on the part of Mr Thomas, the relieving officer, to enquire the precise date of death, unnecessary delay did take place ; but in respect to the two cases applying to Mr Rowe, now considered, the board are quite of opinion that he has acted properly and with due regard to the interests of the community ; and that the board feel called upon to state that the greatest vigilance on the part of their officers, consistent with due regard to the public health, is necessary before granting applications for aid in such cases, as the parties applying are very frequently not entitled to aid it”.

32 9 April 1859

EXTRAORDINARY ACCIDENT AT THE LIVERPOOL LANDING STAGE Shortly before seven o'clock on Tuesday evening, a boatman named **Daniel Morgan**, about 50 years of age, who lives in Derryhouse Street, was leaning against the chain which runs under the south bridge on the shore side of the George's pierhead landing stage, talking to a friend. At the other end of the same chain, another man was also leaning ; but suddenly this man left his position and the chain, which had been previously tight, was now slackened with a jerk. The consequence was that Morgan was pitched into the river, and in the descent performed a complete somersault. The man narrowly escaped striking his head against a projecting pontoon, but he succeeded in extricating himself from his dilemma by striking out vigorously for the river gigs' landing steps, and he being an expert swimmer was soon on the deck of the stage again, having sustained no further injury than a “good ducking”. The most ludicrous part of the scene was the unutterable astonishment which the man displayed at his sudden immersion, for the occurrence of which he was at first unable to account, and the cause of which had to be explained by some of the numerous spectators who quickly collected on the spot. *Liverpool Courier*

33 28 May 1859

Ashton and Stalybridge

WASTING WATER At the Ashton petty sessions, **Samuel Evans**, a boatman, was charged by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincoln Railway Company with leaving open a lock on the Manchester and Huddersfield Canal. The defendant pleaded guilty and was fined 10s and costs.

34 2 July 1859

St Helens

A FLATMAN DROWNED An inquest was held at Blackbrook-in-Parr on Monday, on view of the body of **George Thomas**, aged 22, a flatman, who was drowned in the St Helens Canal by falling from the flat. It appeared in evidence that he was not in the water five minutes, and was alive when got out, but the means applied failed to restore him, no doubt owing to the water being greatly impregnated with chemical matter from the various alkali works abounding in the neighbourhood.

Verdict, "Accidental death".

35 23 July 1859

Wigan

BOATMAN DROWNED On Saturday, an inquest was held at the Britannia Inn, Warrington Lane, before the borough coroner, on **Robert Oxendale**, a single man, 18 years of age, boatman of the boat *Julia* belonging to Messrs Case and Morris of Ince. On the 16th instant, the deceased was on his way from Liverpool in company with his brother John, bringing the boat up the canal and, when passing through No 21 lock, he fell in. As soon as he was missed, his brother made search for him, and with some difficulty recovered his body, but he was dead. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

36 27 August 1859

SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF A BOATWOMAN On Tuesday, an inquest was held upon the body of a woman named **Elizabeth Henley**, who came to her death under circumstances of a suspicious character. The deceased had lived in a state of concubinage with a boatman named **Joseph Shaw** for the last eight years, and assisted him to work the boat of which he was in charge. According to the statement of Shaw, about a quarter past five o'clock on Tuesday morning she assisted him in drawing the paddles of the Park lock on the Ashton Canal, and then went forward to see if the next lock was ready, and he never afterwards saw her alive. Shaw did not stop to enquire what had become of her, but proceeded with his boat on to Manchester. At the inquest, he justified this conduct by saying that he could not get out of the boat, as he was steering at the time, and could not swim. A son of the deceased, about eight years of age, said that about five o'clock on Tuesday morning, his father knocked his mother down and kicked her on the towing-path. He kicked her three times afterwards, and he subsequently kicked her in the boat. John Swain, a police officer, stated that about twenty minutes past six o'clock on Tuesday morning, as he was on duty, he saw a crowd of people standing near to the Park Locks. He found that there was a woman in the water, whom he succeeded in getting out. She was quite dead, and there were bruises on her thighs. The inquest was adjourned until Wednesday, in order that a *post mortem* examination and further enquiries might be made. Shaw was present at the inquest, and was bound over in his own recognisances to appear again on the following day. At the adjourned enquiry on Wednesday, Mr J D Ward, surgeon, stated that he had made a *post mortem* examination, and that death had resulted from drowning and not from violence. Under these circumstances, an open verdict was returned.

37 5 November 1859

Ashton and Stalybridge

DEATHS FROM DROWNING **Benjamin Ogden**, a boatman of Cullow Hill, aged 23, was found drowned in the canal at the Waterhouse Locks on Monday. The deceased had been missing from eight o'clock the same morning. It seemed that the deceased and a man named **James Smith** had the management of a coal boat for Mr Harrop of Bardsley, and the deceased had been with a load of coals to Manchester. On returning, they stopped at a beerhouse in Droylsden, where Ogden got intoxicated. When they got through the Waterhouse locks, Ogden was at the bottom lock and Smith at the top lock. Smith called to Ogden to send the horse forward, but got no answer; and there is no doubt deceased then fell in the canal and was drowned. An inquest has been held on the body, and a verdict of "Found drowned" returned.

38 19 November 1859

BRUTAL ASSAULT ON YOUNG WOMEN AT HALIFAX At Halifax on Saturday, five men, masons, miners and boatmen of Rastrick, were charged with a heinous crime by two young women, Sarah Ann Burrows and Martha Burrows, cousins, living in Lee Bank, Halifax. They were returning from Brighthouse on Sunday evening with two young men. When passing through Rastrick Fields, they were met by some men and hustled by them. Their companions, however, managed to get the girls away that time. However they had not got much farther before they were met by ten or twelve men, who came along the footpath they were walking on, and who seized the two girls. The

rascals succeeded in perpetrating some gross indecencies on Martha, but by violent efforts Mary Ann (*sic*) succeeded in preventing the same being done to her ; and by the united efforts of all, in endeavouring to get free, Martha escaped. With one of her male companions, she set off to Boothroyd Hall for help. In the meantime, the remaining girl (what became of the other young man was not stated) was subjected to brutalities almost past belief. The brutes took her along a field near, threw her down, and, while five of them held her down, the highest crime next to murder was perpetrated upon her by three of the other men in succession. The poor girl was screaming all the time, and at length one of the worst of the band, apparently feeling some compunction, assisted another in lifting her up ; but this was done in spite of the determination of the other men. The poor thing was “paddled” along in the direction from Brighthouse, and then the brutes, as if to leave nothing short of the fullest villainy, endeavoured to drag her into a wood, but she resisted with all her strength. Just at that moment, a young man came along, to whom she appealed. He endeavoured to dissuade the villains. The only reply was that if he did not get away they would throw him into the stone quarry close by. He went off at once for assistance and soon returned with help. The brutes then made off, and the poor girl was tended with the utmost kindness in the next cottage. The five prisoners were all identified. On Wednesday, seven men were charged with being concerned in the offences committed against these girls. Their names were Samuel Earnshaw, miner ; George Chappell, mason ; William Stott, moulder ; Charles Cookson, mason ; **John Marsden**, boatman ; Joseph Briggs and William Shaw, labourers. The court was crowded to suffocation. The poor girl who was the subject of the grossest outrage gave evidence of the atrocious offence. She swore to Briggs, Shaw, Chappell and Cookson ; and the other prisoners were identified by various witnesses. The evidence against Stott, however, was not clear, and he was discharged, but the six other men were committed for trial at the assizes.

39 11 February 1860

MYSTERIOUS CHILD MURDER AT STRETFORD About nine o'clock on the morning of Friday the 3rd inst, the body of a male child, apparently from 18 months to two years old, was found in the canal near Throstle Nest, Stretford by **George Knight**, a boatman in the service of the Bridgewater trustees. The body was naked with the exception of a pair of grey Angola stockings on the feet, and appeared to have been in the water some time. There was a serious wound at the back of the head. The body was conveyed to the Dog and Partridge Inn, Stretford, where an inquest was held by Mr Rutter on Monday. Mr Adye, surgeon of Stretford, stated that he had made a post mortem examination. The body was that of a child, apparently about two years of age, and it had been in the water four or five days. There was a severe cut on the back of the head which had been occasioned by a heavy blow. The skull underneath the wound was not simply broken but smashed into splinters, showing that considerable violence had been used, causing congestion and immediate death. There was not the slightest indication of death being occasioned by drowning. In the stomach, there was a considerable quantity of undigested food, as if a hearty meal had been eaten just before death. No clue had been obtained to the perpetrators of the deed, and the jury returned a verdict of “Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown”.

40 10 March 1860

SUICIDE OF A BOATMAN On Tuesday, an inquest was held by Mr Herford on the body of **John Jackson**, aged 53, who had been a boatman in the employ of Mr Billington. On Monday morning, deceased was perceived by Francis Rolls, cattle dealer, hanging to the mast of a boat lying in the canal near Piccadilly, and on examination was found to be dead. He had been in a low state of mind for some time. A verdict of “Suicide whilst in an unsound state of mind” was returned.

41 17 March 1860

Hyde

CHILD MURDER As a boatman named **John Mellow** was pushing a boat off from the Hyde wharf, the boat hook brought to the surface the body of a male child about three months old. An inquest was held on Saturday, when Mr Payne, surgeon, deposed that on removing the scalp he

found a lacerated wound on the back part of the head. There was a good deal of blood under the scalp and on the surface of the brain. His opinion was that death had been caused by a blow, which appeared to have been given with some blunt instrument. The blow was of sufficient force to cause death without immersion in the water. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against some person or persons at present unknown.

42 19 May 1860

Manchester City Sessions

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE A case of considerable interest to the mercantile public, and on the general importance of which the learned recorder commented, was tried at the city sessions on Wednesday last. The facts proved, stated shortly, were the following :- The warehouse of Messrs John and James Veevers, carriers, is situated on a private arm of the Rochdale Canal at its extremity in Dale Street, about one hundred yards below its junction with the branch to Ashton. On Saturday night, the 7th of April last, fifteen bales of Orleans cotton, with the mark JV/T on each bale, were safe in this warehouse. On the following Monday morning, a chain, which is thrown across the canal and secured with a padlock at the entrance to the warehouse, which is otherwise open at that end, was discovered to be loose, and eight of the bales, of the value of one hundred guineas, were missing, and a ninth was found floating in the water.

At half past six on the Sunday night, two of the prisoners, **John Swallow** and **John Connor**, boatmen in the employ of Mr Bibbington, lime merchant, left his wharf at Leek Street with an empty lime boat, called the *Fly*, for Bugsworth in Derbyshire, and the captain (Swallow) asked for and got 1s 6d to pay for stabling. The proper course of the *Fly*, after proceeding some three hundred yards down the Rochdale Canal, was to turn into the Ashton junction. There was sufficient water on, and no excuse why the boat should not arrive at the Ancoats lock half an hour later. Not to anticipate the course of events, it should be mentioned that a private watchman saw a boat with the name "Bibbington" on it lying close to Veever's warehouse, where it could have no possible business, between seven and eight o'clock. Close upon eleven, a boat was seen by another witness about its own length from the warehouse, and coming from that direction, which turned into the Ashton junction. Soon after eleven, the *Fly* passed through the Ashton lock "empty" according to the customary form of declaration to that effect left by Swallow with the toll collector.

About two o'clock, a boat going up the canal and another boat coming down were brought to a standstill by reason of the *Fly* having stuck fast at the Jockey Bridge, a mile from Ashton, and it took the united efforts of the crews to extricate her in an hour and a half. The master and mate of the descending boat had the opportunity while giving their assistance, and when on board the *Fly* with their lamps lighted, to observe one bale of cotton with the letter T under two other letters on its wrapping. A tarpauling sheet, to all appearance, covered more cotton. Swallow was sworn to as being with his boat at this time, and Connor was also identified, though with a less degree of positiveness. The third prisoner, **James Wynn** (a boatman in no regular employ) now first brought, literally, on board, was spoken to as being present ; as also a fourth man, indicted as **James Booth**, but who is not yet in custody.

Rather more than a mile above the Jockey Bridge, the Ashton lock is reached, and the canal continues in a straight line until half a mile higher up we arrive at the Huddersfield junction, beyond which it changes the name Ashton for Huddersfield. On the margin of this stretch of half a mile there are several cotton mills, and then two waste dealers' places. About four o'clock, the watchman at one of these mills saw a boat go up with some bales of cotton on board, having an appearance different from ordinary merchandise boats. No such boat passed through the Huddersfield Lock on the night or morning in question ; but a "Bibbington's lime boat" was seen coming down towards the Ashton Lock below, stern foremost, at half past four. [After passing the Ashton Lock, a boat going up could not turn if stopped short of the Huddersfield Lock]. The boat which has been mentioned as following in the wake of the *Fly* never saw the latter again, although she must have overtaken her at the Marple Lock had she gone on to her destination. Between five and six, a boat with lumps of cotton adhering to the bottom was seen in the Garforth arm, which forks out of the Marple & c Branch for the convenience of a mill and foundry a very short distance from the Ashton

Lock. At this time, the three prisoners and a fourth man (doubtless Booth) were enjoying themselves over hot gin and ale at a public house in Ashton, dividing money, amongst which there was at least one £10 note. One said, "We should be at Bugsworth tonight", upon which another exclaimed, "The boat may go to hell, I'm going to Huddersfield". In the course of the forenoon, the man Booth changed a £10 note in a public house in Great Ancoats, in the city, and Wynn was in the house at the time. Connor was seen there in course of the afternoon. Swallow stopped at Ashton "spreeing" and was taken into custody on the Tuesday by Sergeant Kirkwood, who also found the *Fly* still lying in the Garforth arm, and with flakes of cotton sticking to it. Swallow had 32s in his pocket, and was wearing a suit of new clothes. The other two men were apprehended by Kirkwood subsequently in Manchester.

Mr Sowler QC and Mr Holker were for the prosecution. Mr Fernley defended all three prisoners. The trial occupied five hours, and the jury deliberated "in retirement" above an hour (as they were well warranted by the nature of the evidence, which was peculiarly of the class called circumstantial – a single witness in most instances proving a single fact, and that of no apparent moment taken by itself, but of vast significance considered in connection with the entire series). They came back into court with a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners. Swallow and Connor (against whom previous convictions were proved) were sentenced to four years penal servitude, and Wynn (against whom nothing was known) to twelve months imprisonment.

43 26 May 1860

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A BOATMAN At the City Police Court on Thursday, **Benjamin Brown**, the captain of a canal boat, was charged with stealing 242 lb of malt, part of a cargo consigned to the London and North Western Railway Company's Canal warehouse, Manchester. A sack of malt was found in the prisoner's boat under some hay, and the result of the investigations showed that altogether 242 lb of malt was missing. The prosecutor, at the time, alleged that the malt which was found ought to have been delivered by him at Stalybridge, but the waybill showed that a sack of malt had already been delivered at Stalybridge. When apprehended subsequently, the sack of malt was not in the boat, but it was afterwards found under the Ducie Street arch. The prisoner was committed for trial at the assizes.

44 28 July 1860

THE WOLVERHAMPTON MURDER At the Stafford assizes on Monday, **Edward Humphries**, 28, boatman, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of **Elizabeth Evans** on the 12th of May last at Wolverhampton. The prisoner had been committed on the charge of the wilful murder of Evans, but the grand jury threw out the bill, and found one for manslaughter. The evidence in this case, it was related, would have shown that the prisoner had been drinking with the deceased (who for some years had been living with him as his wife), and had become enraged because she had told a publican to draw him no more ale. Meeting her after this in the high road in company with other women, he struck her several times on the head with his fists, disregarding her entreaties for mercy, and kicking her with great violence as she lay on the ground. When told that he had killed her, he said that if he had not killed her already, he would when he got her into the boat. The unhappy woman, however, died before she could be lifted from the ground of the effects, the post mortem examination showed, of extravasation of blood on the brain. Mr Justice Hill sentenced the prisoner to eight years penal servitude.

45 11 August 1860

DEATH FROM DROWNING On Monday morning, about half past four o'clock, a boatman named **James Banner** saw the body of a woman floating in the Rochdale Canal, when he communicated the fact to a policeman, and they took her out of the water. The deceased had a slight cut or scratch upon her throat, and in her pocket there was found a razor. Her name was Jane Hallard of Stott Street, Hulme, the wife of James Hallard, yardman at Messrs Galloway and Co's. At the inquest, which was held the same day before Mr Herford, city coroner, the husband stated

that about half past eight on Sunday night, she went to borrow a newspaper for him from a neighbour, and afterwards she said she would go for a short walk. She was pregnant, and whilst she had been carrying the child, she had occasionally been insane. He found one of his razors missing, which no doubt the deceased had carried away with her. She was a sober woman and had lived with him on good terms. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

46 25 August 1860

Wigan

FOUND DROWNED On Tuesday afternoon, a man named William Chadwick, aged 35, of Hallgate, well known as a fiddler, was pulled out of the canal, but life was extinct. The deceased's head was seen above the water by a man named **Gordon**, a boatman, who immediately called for the assistance of police-constable Bond, when the body was drawn out of the water, and upon it was found a pawn ticket, which was not wet, so that the deceased could not have been dead very long. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

47 27 October 1860

A BOATMAN DROWNED IN THE ROCHDALE CANAL An inquest was held on Thursday before Mr Herford, city coroner, touching the death of **William Carter**, age about 29, a boatman who lived at Mirfield. About three o'clock the same morning, a boatman heard a splash in the Rochdale Canal at Ancoats Bottom, and eventually the deceased was taken out of the canal, dead. He was last seen alive the night before at the Woodman public house, Dale Street, and is supposed to have been returning to his boat. A verdict in accordance with the foregoing facts was returned.

48 15 December 1860

A BOATMAN CHARGED WITH THROWING A BOY INTO THE ROCHDALE CANAL At the City Police Court on Tuesday, a boatman named **Benjamin Schofield** was charged with throwing into the Rochdale Canal, on the previous afternoon, David Slagg, a boy nine years of age. From the evidence given by the boy Slagg and two other children, who were with him at the time, it would seem that the occurrence took place in a yard behind the Huddersfield canal warehouse, Ducie Street, Piccadilly. The children were sent into the yard to ask for an engineer who was employed there, when the prisoner came out of the stable, seized hold of the boy and threw him into the canal; and one of the witnesses, an intelligent looking little girl, alleged that the prisoner pushed the boy down twice, saying, "Drown, you d---l, drown". After the boy had been in the water about five minutes, a man on board of a boat which was laying near jumped into the water and got him out. This was the story as told by the children. The prisoner stated that the boy was running back, when his legs caught a rope, and he was "chucked" into the water. He (the prisoner) jumped in and got the lad out. Mr Ellison was about remanding the case when another witness turned up, named John Unwin, who described himself as a carter at the place where the accident happened. He said the boy came running down the yard very boldly, when the prisoner got hold of him and said, "What are you doing here?" The boy screamed, and the witness ran to see what was the matter, but before he could get near to them they both rolled into the "cut". The prisoner and the boy were both together in the cut, when the witness got them out. The prisoner was the worse for drink at the time. There was a boat lying near, but no man jumped out of it to save the boy. When they got out of the water, the prisoner went on board to change his clothes. Mr Ellison remanded the case until Thursday, telling the prisoner that if he could find two sureties in £40 each for his appearance on that day, he might be at liberty until then. The case was heard again on Thursday, when the bench came to the conclusion that the affair was an accident. The prisoner was, therefore, discharged.

49 2 March 1861

Wigan

BODY OF A WOMAN FOUND IN THE CANAL On Wednesday morning about half past seven o'clock, the body of a woman was found in the canal, near to Eccles's tram road, between the Seven Stars and Martland Mill Bridge, by a boatman named **James Atherton**. He immediately got it out, and it was removed to the Seven Stars Inn, where it was identified during the day as that of Ellen

Rimmer, a married woman. It appears that the deceased, who had a numerous family, had led a most intemperate life for a long time past, that she had been drinking for the last fortnight, and had not been at home since Sunday morning. An inquest was held on the body on Thursday at the Queen's Head public house, when a jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

50 16 March 1861 Warrington

TWO DEATHS IN THE CANAL TUNNEL AT PRESTON BROOK On Monday the 4th instant, an inquest was held at the Red Lion Inn, Preston Brook, before James Nicholson Esq, on the body of **Thomas Lunt**, a boy about ten years of age, the son of a boatman. He was steering the boat through the tunnel, and by some means fell into the water, and when taken out was quite dead. Verdict, "Accidentally drowned". On Saturday last, another inquest was held at the same place, before Mr Nicholson, on the body of **Ann Cooper**, wife of one of the "leggers" at the tunnel. She was returning home with her husband about nine o'clock on Friday evening, and when near there, her husband had occasion to stop a few minutes behind her. He went home, expecting to find her there, but she not being in, he raised an alarm, supposing she had fallen into the canal. **James Scragg**, the tunnel keeper, was there directly, and searched with a boat hook at the tunnel mouth for some time, but without success. Eventually she was found floating on the water, her clothes keeping her up, about twenty yards out from the tunnel, but when taken out was quite dead. An open verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

51 11 May 1861

BOY DROWNED IN THE CANAL An inquest was held on Monday before Mr Herford, on view of the body of **Peter Atherton**, five years, son of a boatman residing in Green Street, Hulme. On Saturday morning, deceased, together with another boy, was playing on the canal banks near his father's residence, when he overbalanced himself, fell in, and was drowned. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

52 20 July 1861 Rochdale

VICIOUS ASSAULT – VERDICT OF £27 DAMAGES At the County Court on Wednesday, **Samuel Schofield**, a boatman, sued **Edmund Baron**, another boatman, for £27 damages, alleged to have been sustained by the plaintiff in consequence of the defendant breaking his leg on the 5th of March in the Rochdale Canal Yard. Defendant was assaulting another person named Demilow, when plaintiff asked him to cease doing so. Thereupon the defendant knocked plaintiff down and broke his leg. Verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount, with costs.

53 31 August 1861

MELANCHOLY AFFAIR A sad case of concealment of birth has occurred at Littleborough, followed by a melancholy suicide at Manchester. On the 16th inst, the body of an infant was found in the canal at Littleborough. The body was wrapped in paper and weighted with a stone. A person named John Ashworth discovered the body, and was assisted in getting it out of the canal by a man named Kershaw. An inquest was held on the body before Mr Dearden, at the Red Lion Inn, when Mr Lister, surgeon, stated that the child was dead before immersion, but he could not swear that it had been born alive, though he could say it was alive during the birth. This, the coroner said, did not satisfy the law of murder, and under his direction a verdict of "Found dead" was returned. The principal witness was Miss Martha Hill who, after being cautioned, stated that that morning her sister Margaret had confessed that the child was hers ; adding that it did not breathe or cry. The two sisters occupied Brook Cottage, and are both near 40 years old. They carried on the business of dressmakers, and their brother Adam, who held a highly respectable clerkship in Manchester, visited his sisters on Saturday evenings and returned to business on Monday. The family was respectable, and Margaret was a diligent Sunday School teacher. John Barker, a township surveyor, to whom is ascribed the paternity of the infant, about the same time, left Littleborough. Miss Martha Hill, whose grief was excessive, states that she had no knowledge of her sister's condition,

and no knowledge of the birth ; and that immediately Margaret confessed to her, she (Margaret) left the house. Before the termination of the inquest, a telegram to Superintendent Pickering informed him that Margaret Hill had surrendered herself at Liverpool, and Police-constable Storer was dispatched to apprehend her on a charge of concealment of birth. Upon the brown paper in which the body was wrapped was written the name of Mrs Kershaw, wife of the person who, singularly enough, assisted to pull the child out of the canal, and it was then recollected that some time ago Margaret Hill had been sewing at Mrs Kershaw's house. Yesterday, Margaret Hill was brought before the magistrates of Littleborough, on the charge of having concealed the birth of her infant found in the canal. This was early in the morning, and few persons knew of it, so the court was not crowded. Owing to the large amount of other business, she was remanded till Monday. John Barker, the man reputed to be the father of the child, is reported to be at Skipton in Yorkshire, whence a letter has been received from him, and it is supposed that he does not intend to return. The most melancholy portion of the story remains. On Wednesday morning, the body of Mr Adam Hill was found in the Bridgewater Canal at Old Trafford, near this city ; the circumstances being such as to leave little or no doubt that grief and distraction for the unfortunate position of his sister led him to self destruction. An inquest on the body was held by Mr Herford, city coroner, at the Royal Infirmary on Thursday, when **Samuel Howard**, a boatman, stated that he found the body of the deceased floating in the canal near Old Trafford, about half past five o'clock that morning. He noticed no marks of violence on the body, and the deceased had on all his clothing, except his hat. Another witness stated that he was in company with the deceased from a quarter after eight to half past nine o'clock on Tuesday evening. The deceased, who was quite sober, was very uneasy about a sister, who was charged with some offence at Littleborough. He shook hands with the deceased at the corner of Dawson Street, but followed him until he turned to go towards his lodgings in Great Jackson Street. Mr T M Fisher, of the firm of T M Fisher and Son, auctioneers and valuers, stated that the deceased was a clerk in their employment, and saw him last at six o'clock on Tuesday evening. The deceased told him that he was in trouble about his sister, who was charged with causing the death of her child ; that he was summoned to attend the inquest ; and that it would be "the death of him". The jury returned an open verdict of "Found drowned". The deceased was 49 years old.

54 **28 September 1861** **Lancaster Insolvent Court**
DISCHARGED FORTHWITH : **Joseph Acton**, boatman, Leigh.

55 **18 January 1862**
A CAUTION TO POLICEMEN At the City Police Court on Wednesday, James Taylor and **Thomas Wynn** were charged with assaulting Police-constable Mason. The officer's story was that, at a quarter to one in the night, he found the two men quarrelling in Great Ancoats Street. He requested them to move on, when Taylor struck him. Another officer came up, and was also struck by Taylor. Mr Ellison remarked that there was not the slightest evidence against Wynn, and he ought not to have been brought there at all. Wynn was taken out of the box and placed in the witness box. He said he was a boatman. Taylor was his half brother. He had been on a visit to his mother in Manchester, and on Tuesday night the three of them went out to have a parting glass together. After they had had three noggins of gin, and were in the street, his brother was pressing him to have a last parting glass, when the police officer came and pushed against him, and then ordered him to move on. It was not a violent push. As they did not move, the officers collared them. His brother, not liking to be choked, raised his hand to strike the officer, but he (Wynn) advised him not to do so. The officer waved his staff over his brother's head. Witness told his brother to go quietly and then the officer dare not strike him. Mr Ellison said a great deal of what had taken place was owing to the officer having behaved indiscreetly at first. The defendant was discharged. He did wish officers to understand that they should not commence by pushing against persons. They should first tell the men to move on ; if they would not move, then get their names ; and if the men would not give their names, then take them into custody. The officers should not

commence by laying hands upon the men, and when it was necessary it should be done in the gentlest manner possible.

56 15 February 1862 Altrincham

SUDDEN DEATH OF A BOATMAN On Wednesday, Mr Dunstan, the coroner of this district, held an inquest at the Navigation Inn on **William Liddiard**, a boatman, who died suddenly whilst in his boat on the canal at Broadheath on Monday. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased had been suffering from asthma for many years. Verdict, "Died from natural causes".

57 22 March 1862

STEALING HAY Edward Conolly was charged at the City Police Court on Saturday with having broken into the stable of Messrs Gibson and Co, coal merchants, Mill Street, Ancoats, and stolen five trusses of hay. The fact that the stable had been broken into and the hay stolen was discovered on Friday morning. The same morning, the prisoner got **James Sutton**, a boatman, to take the hay in his boat down the canal. Sutton's master saw the hay in the boat, and called out to know what the hay was doing there. The hay was then thrown out of the boat and the prisoner decamped, but he was shortly afterwards apprehended. One of the trusses of hay was identified by one of Mr Gibson's carters. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and said that he had been out of employment for some time. It was stated that he was known to have slept out for several nights. Mr Ellison said he should have applied to the guardians for relief. The prisoner answered that he had done so, but was told that he was able to work. He was sentenced to two months imprisonment.

58 22 March 1862

BANKRUPTS **Would J**, Tattershall, boatman.

59 12 April 1862

SINGULAR OCCURRENCE On Saturday, a girl aged 15, daughter of a mechanic in the New Town, Ashford, vomited a large frog. She had previously been treated for bowel complaint. The frog is of considerable size, being as large as the palm of the girl's hand, and is very lively. She was nearly choked by it. The water supplied to the houses in the New Town is very impure, and in summer is full of insects. The girl has a recollection of swallowing something when drinking a draught of water last summer, but no attention was paid to the circumstance. She has lately been subject to disorders and pain in the bowels, for which she has been obliged to have recourse to medical advice. *Sussex Express*

60 26 July 1862

A POLICEMAN COMMITTED FOR BREAKING A MAN'S JAW Isaac Davis, a policeman, was charged at the City Police Court with assaulting and breaking the jaw bone of **Thomas Hyde**, boatman, White Street. The prosecutor stated that about half past eleven o'clock on Monday night, he was passing along Port Street on his way to his boat, and was accompanied by two men named Bearman and Baker. Bearman was drunk and they wanted to get rid of him. The prisoner went up to Bearman and the two men spoke to each other in an angry manner. The prisoner then crossed over to him (prosecutor) and charged him with having used a strong expression. He replied that he had never spoken, when without another word, the prisoner gave him a violent blow on the jaw which sent him reeling to the ground. The prisoner was then about to strike Baker, but was prevented from doing so by another constable who came up at this time. Prosecutor, accompanied by Baker, went into an adjoining public house, and were followed by the policemen. Prosecutor told the constables that his jaw was broken. The prisoner left the house immediately, and the prosecutor went to the Infirmary where his jaw was dressed. Next morning, he saw the prisoner at the police station, and could positively swear to him. At the time he was struck by the prisoner, he was quite sober, and was not making the least disturbance whatever. Elizabeth Williams of Port Street and Police Officer Samuel Warhurst corroborated portions of the prosecutor's statement. The

prisoner, who looked much dejected, was committed for trial.

61 25 April 1863

BANKRUPTS BIRD Isaac, Manchester, boatman, May 4 County Court. Dated April 14.

62 30 June 1863

NOTICE is hereby given that the County Court of Lancashire, holden at Manchester, acting in the prosecution of a petition for adjudication of bankruptcy, filed on the fourteenth day of April 1863 by **ISAAC BIRD** of 37 Mayor Street, Newton, Manchester, and formerly of Tipton, Staffordshire, boatman, did on the seventeenth day of June 1863 allow the said bankrupt his order of discharge, and the same will be delivered to him at the expiration of thirty days from such date, unless an appeal be duly entered against the judgement of the court.

RICHARD TWEMLOW, High Bailiff.

63 27 June 1863

Manchester Quarter Sessions

SENTENCES On Tuesday the following sentences were passed : **Edward Johnson**, a boatman, for stealing, on the 6th of May, a hand cart, the property of Laurence Rostron, sentenced to five years penal servitude.

64 18 July 1863

A BOATMAN FOUND DROWNED An inquest was held on Saturday by Mr Herford, city coroner, on **Richard Birch**, aged 28 years, late in the employ of Mr Lukes, Egerton Street, as a boatman. The body of the deceased was found in the canal, Castlefield, on Saturday morning. It is supposed that he must have fallen into the water on Friday night whilst going on board the boat on which he lived. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

65 13 April 1864

A MAN DROWNED NEAR TODMORDEN Yesterday (Tuesday morning) the body of a man was taken out of the canal at Lobmill, near Todmorden. He is about 25 years old, rather stout and good looking, but is not known to anyone in that neighbourhood. He was last seen alive a fortnight since on Sunday night last, when he left the beerhouse adjoining the lock a little before eleven o'clock. He had had very little to drink, and was quite sober at the time. He was a boatman in the employ of **Mr Samuel Ellis** of Wakefield, and was with a boat which was anchored a little below, in Burnt Acres Pool. It is said the captain and he had some cross words ; but when he left the house, he went in the direction of the boat. He had not been heard of since that night, and it was thought he had gone away in consequence of something that had pleased him. The body was taken to the Rose and Crown Inn, where the inquest will be held tomorrow.

66 6 May 1864

A CAPTAIN AND MATE CHARGED WITH STEALING **Henry Ourmson**, captain, and **George Powell**, mate of the barge *Lansdale*, belonging to Messrs J and G P Kenworthy, warehousemen, Chorlton Street, were charged at the City Police Court yesterday with stealing a quantity of cotton, the property of their employers. Whilst the vessel was being unloaded, John Holland, the manager, saw Powell pull a quantity of cotton from some of the bales. The prisoners were afterwards seen to secrete the cotton ; and subsequently a bag of loose cotton was found in the cabin. The prisoners were committed for trial.

67 9 August 1864

Chester Assizes

BIGAMY AT RUNCORN – SELLING A WIFE FOR A SHILLING Hannah Green was indicted for marrying Samuel Thompson on the 7th March 1861, her husband Thomas Parkes, puddler, Bilston, then being alive. Another indictment was laid, charging her with marrying Henry New. Considerable amusement was created by the examination of the witnesses in the case, from which it

appeared that the prisoner had been married to Thompson (*sic*), who lived with her, ill using her frequently. **Rachel Woodward**, a boatwoman on the canal, proved that Thompson(*sic*) had often threatened to sell her, and did so for a shilling at the "Brummagem" fair, about nine years since, selling her with a halter round her neck. Both parties were agreeable to the sale. It was before her last marriage with New. Samuel Thompson bought her. She married New in October 1859. New died shortly after she married him, being very ill at the time she married him. When taken into custody, prisoner said she had done what she had done with her first husband's consent. Mr Swetenham urged for the defence that the prisoner had not been married to a man named Parkes, puddler of Northampton, but one named **Sparkes**, boatman of Runcorn ; and that she had not been legally married, but only lived with him as his wife, and called him "her husband". His Lordship, in summing up, said that the notion that a man could rid himself of an uncomfortable helpmate by taking her to a market with a rope round her neck was formerly very prevalent, but he thought it had fallen out of date before now. It was a notion that the minds of ignorant people should be, by all means, disabused of such an impression. The jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty".

68 27 September 1864

ILL TREATING A HORSE At the New Bailey yesterday, **Ellis Robinson**, boatman of Ashley near Leigh, was fined 20s and costs for cruelly beating a horse at Old Trafford on the 24th inst.

69 12 December 1864

BANKRUPTS **JONES, Thomas**, boatman, Bilston, Staffordshire. December 19.

70 12 December 1864

DEATH BY DROWNING On Saturday at the Coroner's Court, Ridgefield, Mr Herford, the city coroner, held an inquest on the body of **Thomas Griffiths**, a boatman aged 71 of Whyat Street, Great Ancoats Street. On Wednesday afternoon, between four and five o'clock, the deceased was working at Litherland's dock yard near Hulme Hall, and on the following morning, his body was taken out of the Bridgewater Canal. There were no marks of violence on the body. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

71 14 December 1864

MAN FOUND DROWNED An inquest was held yesterday by the city coroner on the body of a man whose name was unknown, aged about 36. A boatman named **Edward Maguire** stated that about seven o'clock that morning, while proceeding along the Rochdale Canal near Oxford Road, he saw something in the water, and on pulling it out found it was a human body. The deceased had no shoes or stockings on, and was very meanly clad. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

72 28 December 1864

FATAL ACCIDENT An inquest was held yesterday by Mr Herford, city coroner, on the body of **William Chapman**, late of 22 Aqueduct Street, Ancoats Street, aged 11 years, son of **George Chapman**, boatman. It appeared that about five weeks since, the deceased was run over by a cab which was turning the corner of Portland Street. He was very severely injured, and was taken to the Royal Infirmary, where he lingered until Monday last. No blame was attached to the driver of the cab. Verdict, "Accidental death".

73 10 January 1865

FATAL ACCIDENT An inquest was held yesterday by Mr Herford, coroner, on the body of **Richard Chapman**, late of Barton near Eccles, boatman. On Friday last, as the deceased was engaged in emptying a boat of some corn sacks, two of the sacks slipped from the sling and fell upon him. He was taken to the Infirmary and died on Sunday. Verdict, "Accidental death".

74 20 March 1865

BANKRUPTS BUCKLER Nathan, boatman, Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire. April 1.

75 15 April 1865

THREE PERSONS DROWNED IN THE ROCHDALE CANAL On Monday, Mr Herford, city coroner, held an inquest on the bodies of **John Pendlebury**, boatman, aged 39, **Catherine Pendlebury**, his wife, and **Mary Ann Pendlebury** aged 15 months. Thomas Hodgson, a young man residing with his father, agent for the Rochdale Canal Company at the office in Gaythorn, said that about twelve o'clock on Saturday night, while in bed, he heard several screams. He got up, put on some clothes, and went up the canal bank to the next lock, but could see nothing. On returning, he saw something which he at first supposed was a dog swimming on the top of the water. He got it out, and found it was the body of a child. A few yards higher up he saw a bonnet and a woman's skirt. The screams were those of a woman. He had known of similar accidents, which might have been prevented by a proper fence and lights on the canal side. **William Dickinson**, mate of the coal flat *Walter*, belonging to Mr John Kirk of Black Lane near Wigan, said that the deceased man, John Pendlebury, was the captain. The flat was moored about fifty yards from the spot where the child was found. Shortly before eleven o'clock on Saturday night, the deceased man came to the boat in a state of intoxication, and found his wife and child in bed. He told his wife to get up and give him some supper, but she said she would not. A quarrel arose between them, during which witness got up and left the flat. While he was on the canal bank, he saw the husband come from the flat followed by his wife and child, but saw nothing of them until the following morning, when he heard all three had been found drowned. Evidence was given of the finding of the bodies of the husband and wife in the canal. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

76 22 May 1865

DOG STEALING At the New Bailey on Saturday, two men named **William Brown** (a boatman) and William Lofthouse were charged with stealing a dog belonging to Mr Locke, a gentleman residing at Stretford. The prosecutor, on Friday, went into a butcher's shop in Stretford for the purpose of making a purchase, and on leaving he missed one of the two dogs he had with him. The dog was seen following the prisoner Brown, and traced to the cabin of his boat. Both prisoners were seen in company together, and they were each fined 40s and costs, and 10s, the value of the dog, or in default a month's imprisonment.

77 8 July 1865

FOUND DROWNED Yesterday Mr Herford, the city coroner, held an inquest on the body of **Moses Bushell**, a boatman whose body was found on Thursday in the Bridgewater Canal near Castlefield. No evidence was given as to the mode in which the deceased got into the water, and a verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

78 27 July 1865

SINGULAR DISCOVERY OF AN ALLEGED MURDERER A boatman named **William Smith**, residing in Denison Street, was charged at the Liverpool Police Court yesterday with having stabbed a carter named William Leonard, living in Grenville Street. The men quarrelled in Waterloo Road on the Tuesday night, when the prisoner stabbed the complainant on the right cheek, inflicting a wound two inches and a half in length. He was ordered to be imprisoned for two months. Mr Superintendent Kehoe said he had another charge to prefer against the prisoner – that of having committed a murder on board the American ship *Albert Gallatin*, about twelve months ago when the vessel was at New York. The only evidence he had to offer was a statement made by James Woods, the man who had been remanded on a charge of personating a voter. He (Mr Kehoe) would ask his worship to remand the prisoner to the following day, as he had communicated with the American consul to ascertain what steps he intended to take. The prisoner was remanded till the following day. It appeared that Woods had met Smith in the bridewell, and recognised him as a man

who had committed a murder on board a ship on which he (Woods) was a passenger. He told the governor of the bridewell, and said that he was on board the vessel at the time, but was afraid to interfere, the other man being violent and desperate.

79 21 November 1865

A WOMAN FOUND DROWNED Yesterday, Mr Herford, city coroner, held an inquest on the body of **Rosanna Potts**, aged 31, who resided at 16 Goddrall Street, Hardman Street, wife of Robert Potts, labourer. It was stated that the deceased had deserted her husband and lived with a boatman. On Monday morning, a boatman named **Peter Yates**, while discharging timber from a boat on the canal at Castlefield, found the body of the deceased floating on the water. She was last seen on Sunday afternoon near the spot where she was found, without bonnet or shawl. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

80 16 January 1866

CAUSING THE DEATH OF A HORSE At the Manchester County Court yesterday, before Mr Ovens, judge, Mr William Crippin, Summer House, Old Trafford, coal merchant, sued John Veevers and James Veevers, Dale Street, Manchester, to recover the value of a horse pushed into a canal by the negligence of the defendants' servants, and damages to the amount of £1 3s for veterinary surgeon's services, and loss of a swindle tree value 2s. Mr Leresche, barrister, appeared for the plaintiff.

Joseph Watson, a boatman, said : I was employed by Mr Crippin. On Saturday the 19th November, I was coming round the Water Meetings at a quarter to six in the evening, it was twilight ; I met a pair of horses on the bank, the driver was on one of the horses. I shouted to the driver to stop, but he drove on faster ; I called out to him several times to stop. Almost instantly, I and my horse were dragged into the canal. When the other driver saw this, he got off his horse and turned back ; he was quite drunk. The boat to avoid coming in collision with ours was run ashore. The horse was got out about seven o'clock, he was quite swollen with the dirty water of the canal. I took it to my master's house at Old Trafford. A veterinary surgeon (Mr Greaves) was fetched and attended the horse. On Monday morning, the horse died. A swindle tree was lost, worth 2s. The horse was worth £7 10s. Mr Greaves charged £1 1s.

Silas Derbyshire, a platelayer on the railway, living at Water Meetings Bridge, said : I was on the canal at the time, about a dozen yards from the spot where the horse was pulled in the canal. I heard Watson shout to the driver of the other horses to stop, and instantly I heard the horse fall into the canal. I immediately went up and found both the man and the horse in the canal.

James Tyrer, employed by Mr Crippin as captain of a boat, said : I was coming to Manchester with a boat on Saturday night ; I met one of defendants' boats, and instead of allowing me to pass in the ordinary way, he dragged his line across my boat instead of passing it under, and smashed off the chimney tops and bumped the side of my boat.

His Honour found for the plaintiff.

81 14 April 1866

THE CASE OF FELONIOUS SHOOTING NEAR LAMBETH BRIDGE At the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday, **Joseph Wood**, 28, described as a boatman, was charged with feloniously shooting at Thomas Lefley, with intent to murder him. He was also charged with intending to do the prosecutor grievous bodily harm. On the night of the 19th of March, about eleven o'clock, the prisoner was passing with his boat under the lock bridge in the Harrow Road, and was somewhat the worse for liquor and quarrelling with his wife in the boat. The people on the bridge seem to have jeered him, and to have taken the woman's part. He rushed down into the cabin, and procured a gun, which he discharged towards the bridge, and the unfortunate prosecutor received nearly the whole of the charge in his face. The consequence was that the sight of both his eyes was entirely destroyed. The jury found the prisoner guilty of wounding the prosecutor and causing him grievous bodily harm, and the learned judge sentenced him to be kept in penal servitude for seven years.

82 10 May 1866

MURDEROUS ASSAULT NEAR BARNSELEY At Barnsley yesterday, **Thomas Bucktrout**, a boatman, was brought up on remand, charged with attempting to drown his wife, **Hannah Bucktrout**, on the 20th ult. He beat and kicked her, and pushed her twice into the Wakefield and Barnsley Canal. Another boatman who saw what took place rescued the woman with a boat hook. The prisoner had previously set traps to cause his wife to fall overboard. The prisoner was committed for six months hard labour.

83 26 May 1866

BANKRUPTS **WITHY John**, boatman, Hopwood, Alvechurch, Worcestershire. June 22.

84 12 June 1866

MURDEROUS ATTACK AND ROBBERY NEAR BRADFORD Yesterday at the West Riding Court at Bradford, **Abraham Varley**, master of the boat *Ada*, running on the Liverpool and Leeds canal, and **Isaac Furrbeck**, a boatman, were charged with making a murderous attack upon Jonathan Sugden, a weaver living at Windhill near Bradford, and also with stealing a Paisley shawl from Mrs Sugden.

85 21 June 1866

THE SUICIDE NEAR HUDDERSFIELD On Tuesday afternoon, an inquest was held at the Junction Inn, Crosland Moor, before Mr J R Ingram, deputy coroner, touching the death of **John Hirst**, boatman, aged 60 years. The deceased resided at Brierley Wood, Lockwood, and hung himself with a child's skipping rope on Sunday afternoon, during the absence of his wife and family at church. He had been drinking for nearly a fortnight. The jury returned a verdict that he had hung himself, but that there was no evidence to show what was the state of his mind at the time.

86 29 September 1866

A MAN KICKED TO DEATH An atrocious and cowardly outrage was perpetrated on Wednesday night by a gang of ruffians in the neighbourhood of Ancoats, which resulted in the death of a married man named William Lee, a stationer residing in Bradford Road. It appeared that about six o'clock in the evening, a boatman named **William Jewell**, in the employ of Mr Swire, a coal agent in Oxford Street, was returning with a horse from the canal to the stable. Whilst passing along Jersey Street, he was assailed by several drunken men, several of whom appeared to be factory operatives on the "spree". One of them got upon the horse, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the man in charge of it. The deceased, who happened to be coming by at the moment, interfered on behalf of Jewell ; and requested the man on the horse to get off, which he refused to do. Lee was immediately surrounded. One of the gang of rougns struck him on the hat, and this seemed to be the signal for a general onslaught. The poor fellow struggled desperately, but in vain, to escape from his ruthless assailants, who beat him unmercifully ; and, when on the ground, struck at, and kicked him about the body until he died. The boatman ran off in search of a policeman, and gave information of the outrage to Police-constable 9A, who went back with him to the spot. On the way, a factory hand named Joseph Rogers, employed at Murray's mill, was pointed out as having been one of the principal actors in the dastardly attack. He was pursued to a house in Poland Street, and was at once apprehended. The deceased was taken to a house in Jersey Street, and an assistant of Dr Fletcher was sent for ; but on his arrival he pronounced life to be extinct. On Thursday, at the City Police Court, Joseph Rogers, Henry Holland, John Glennan and Thomas Craven were brought up on a charge of causing the man's death. The charge was originally preferred against Rogers, and entered against him as wilful murder ; but the other three men were subsequently apprehended as having taken part in the outrage. A police-constable was on duty in Camden Street on the previous evening about half past six o'clock, when a man came up to him and said he had been assaulted in Jersey Street, and that a person who had interfered in his behalf was being ill used by the same man. The officer went to Jersey Street and saw the deceased lying on the ground. The prisoner Rogers

ran round the corner of the street, and took refuge in his mother's house in Oldham Road, where the officer followed and captured him. When the officer returned with his prisoner to the scene of the outrage, the man who had been assailed was pronounced by the surgeon to be dead. Rogers at the station said, "There were 24 of us altogether, and I did not do anything". On the application of Inspector Bateman, the prisoners were remanded to Friday.

87 29 September 1866

THE FATAL OUTRAGE IN JERSEY STREET The four young men, Joseph Rogers, Henry Holland, John Glenning and Thomas Craven were yesterday brought up at the City Police Court, on a charge of wilfully killing William Lee, under circumstances already briefly reported in the *Courier*. The outrage was committed on Wednesday evening. The following evidence was taken, that of the woman **Ellen Jewell** being somewhat confused as to the identification of the persons whom she saw in the crowd. This witness said : I am coming along Jersey Street when I saw several youths standing at the corner of a street, Glenning and Rogers being amongst the number. Rogers put his arms around my neck. There were more than twenty persons present. Rogers, after putting his arms around my neck, ran up a narrow street, and I ran after him. He stopped and faced me, and I asked him what he meant to do, and he pulled off his jacket to fight with me, this was after I told him to let me go about my business. He did not let me alone, and a crowd followed me down the street. One of the men pushed me on the back, and my husband coming up at the time, they turned on him, and got about him like a swarm of bees. One of them jumped on the horse's back which my husband was driving. My husband tried to get away from them, and he was struck three or four blows on the head. One man took hold of the horse's head, another of its tail, and a third one of its hind legs. The deceased, who came up, asked a boy who was on the horse's neck to get off, but the boy would not. Joseph Rogers then struck the deceased and knocked him down. The deceased got up, and Holland also struck him on the side of the head with his fist, knocking him down a second time, and whilst he was down, the four prisoners kicked and abused him sadly. Holland gave him the last kick on the right temple, but I could not say how many kicks and blows the deceased received. After the deceased was knocked down the last time, and the four prisoners commenced punching him, the boy who sat on the horse's back jumped down on to the deceased's neck. There was no laughing amongst the crowd, or remarks of "give it him", but some women who were present cried out. My husband went for a policeman, and during the time he was away, about ten minutes, the crowd were abusing the deceased. After the policeman came up, the crowd went off, leaving the man lying on the ground. The deceased was then carried into a house on the opposite side of the street. When the man first came up to help us, he appeared to be all right and healthy, and he did nothing whatever to annoy the prisoners beyond asking them to let the horse go. I saw the prisoner Holland among ten men, and pointed him out to the officers ; and I am quite certain it was he who kicked the deceased. I said at the police station on Wednesday night that Rogers never struck a blow. The witness was here requested to stand down for the present, as her replies were rather conflicting on the subject of the prisoner's name and identity.

Edward Jewell said he was leading a horse down Jersey Street, a few yards behind his wife, when he saw a crowd of between twenty and thirty standing in the street. He saw a man push his wife, and take off his jacket to fight with her. The man, whom he now identified as the prisoner Rogers, also threatened to strike her. He asked the men why they did not let them go peaceably about their business. The crowd came round him, and Holland lifted one of the men on to the horse. Witness turned round to ask the man what right he had on the horse, and what they were going to do with him, and he caught hold of the man's leg to pull him off the horse. In the meantime, four or five others came about witness, and commenced beating him about the back of the head. He turned round to see who had struck him, when the one on the horse struck him on the side of the face, and as witness was turning round again, the deceased came up and said, "Why don't you get off the man's horse? What business have you on the man's horse ; let the man go about his business". Deceased was then struck to the floor by Rogers, by a blow on the side of the head, Rogers using his fist, and witness himself continued to receive blows from Holland and Glenning. Deceased, on

getting up, was again knocked down by Holland with his fist, and witness then went for a policeman. When the policeman came up, the crowd ran away, and Rogers was apprehended in his own house in Oldham Road. Later in the same evening, witness was in company with his wife, and was passing a public house door, and Holland, who was with some others, said, "That's the ---- that gave Rogers into custody", and tried to run him. They stopped, however, on seeing two officers who were on the opposite side of the street. Witness could not speak to Craven as being one of the party participating in the row. The prisoner Craven, in answer to the court, said he had nothing to say. "I was in the crowd, but did nothing". In reply to Glenning, the witness said he had seen him before, in Jersey Street, and at the time of the row. Glenning struck him once or twice on the back of the head. Before witness picked out Glenning at the Town Hall, he identified Holland, and he afterwards identified Glenning since in his mind. Being strange, he had gone away without identifying him. Witness did not see Glenning touch the deceased, but what he might have done whilst he was absent for the officer, he could not say. Re-examined by Rogers : Witness said he did not identify him at the time of the row because he was frightened, but he did now.

Mary Fowler, living in Bengal Street, said, as she was coming out of Murray Street into Jersey Street, she saw a crowd and a man on a horse in the middle of it. A woman was holding the horse, and the last witness appeared to be in a scuffle, was making his way out, and went away. Did not see him struck. The man on the horse knocked a man's hat off. Saw the man reeling, and Rogers struck him on the left eye. The blow did not knock him down, but Holland struck and the man then fell. He got up but was knocked down again by blows from Rogers and Holland. The man turned over on his chest, and several people round him kicked at him, but I cannot say which. There were only a few round him at that time, perhaps four or five at him. Glenning and Craven were in the crowd, but I did not see them do anything, either kick or strike the man. Someone cried out, "They are killing the man"; and witness said, "There is a policeman coming", and they then began to move away. Before they had got away, the policeman and the last witness came up. The policeman and the witness ran after the crowd ; witness lifted the man up in her arms, and he died. Cross-examined by Glenning : Saw him in the crowd, and at the police station, but did not pick him out. The officer said, when I picked Holland out, "Go and touch him". The officer said, "That is right", then turned to go back to the kitchen and, as she passed, saw Glenning, and told the officer he was one of them. Witness knew him by his scarf, and his dress and features.

Jane Foster, wife of Feargus Foster, 61 Jersey Street, said that on Wednesday afternoon she heard a disturbance, and saw a man on the boatman's horse. The deceased said to him, "Don't be a foolish young man, get off the horse". The man on the horse knocked his hat over his eyes. The prisoner Rogers then came up and struck him in the face with his fist ; and another man, very much like Holland, ran at him, knocked him down, and kicked him. There was a crowd round when this was going on. Just before the police came, when the crowd left him, witness saw him bleeding and went to pick him up, on which Rogers came up and kicked at her, but did not hit her, at the same time calling her a ---- mare. He then ran away, as a young woman said, "Here are the police, and he's dead". Witness said the last witness and two men carried him into her house. A doctor was sent for, but the deceased died before he arrived. The same night, witness saw Rogers at the Livesey Street police station, and she now identified him as the man who struck the deceased and attempted to kick him. She thought she knew Glenning, but did not identify him. Cross-examined by Holland : Went to you at first, and then to Glenning, but don't swear to either of you.

William Barber, spinner, living in Boslam Street, saw a crowd, and amongst it the prisoner Craven, but did not see him do anything. He knew Craven quite well, and told him to get away as the crowd appeared to be killing a man. He saw no one do anything in the affair except run. He saw a shower of blows but did not see who struck them. The blows were at the place from which the men ran.

Joseph Simpson, a police officer, deposed that when he was called by the witness Edward Jewell to come to the row, he saw the prisoner Rogers running away. He followed him, and never lost sight of him until he got to his mother's house. He found him lying on his back on the stairs, and he was puffing, as if out of breath. There was no other man in the house. He brought him out of the house, and Jewell said that he was one of the men. Witness took Rogers to Liversy Street station, where

he left him, and came back to the scene of the disturbance, and found that deceased had been taken into the house No 61 in the same street. On Rogers being charged at the station, he said there were about 24 of them there, and he did not do anything.

Aaron Rowbotham deposed to having apprehended Holland and Glenning with the assistance of Sergeant Davenport, and that Holland was identified by all the witnesses except Foster as being in the row. The prisoner had been placed with eight others at the station. Holland said, on being charged with assisting in causing the death of a man, that he knew nothing about it. Glenning said he had left for Leeds on Monday morning, and did not return until Wednesday night at half past eleven. Witness examined Holland's clogs, but saw nothing about them to lead to any suspicion. The clogs appeared to have been newly bottomed and ironed. Glenning wore a pair of large shoes. Police-constable Simpson, in reply to the court, said that Rogers wore clogs when he was apprehended. Mr Superintendent Maybury : I should like to have one of the clogs off to produce hereafter, lest they might be missing. Mr Fowler to Dr Pearse (who had made a *post mortem* examination of the deceased) : Will your evidence be that the man died from the result of kicks? Dr Pearse : Most certainly. Mr Fowler then directed the prisoner's clogs to be taken off in the dock, which was accordingly done.

Inspector Harry Bateman said he apprehended the prisoner Craven a little before one on Thursday morning at Oldham. Yesterday morning, he told the prisoner that he was charged, along with Holland, Glenning and Rogers, with beating and kicking a man named Lee between five and six o'clock on Wednesday evening in Jersey Street. He said, "I know nothing about it ; I don't know these other men ; I never saw them in my life before". The witness Ellen Jewell was called into the box, and her depositions read over. She confirmed the statement that she saw Craven and Holland in the crowd, and that Craven had kicked the deceased. Inspector Bateman, in answer to a question from the bench : It was the prisoner Rogers the witness picked out, and not Craven, Craven not then being in custody.

The widow of the deceased was examined, and said that her husband was 40 years of age, and had been a perfectly healthy man. There were five children, the youngest being between one and two years old, and the eldest turned eleven. Mr Fowler : Are you a Protestant or a Roman Catholic? Witness : A Catholic. Mr Fowler : Irish? Witness : Yes, sir. Mr Fowler : Now, my good woman, it is a painful subject, and I am very sorry for you, but if you bury him decently and quietly, without waking or ridiculously spending money in drink or nonsense of that sort, I shall endeavour to raise you a little money, but if I find that you do not do as I say, you won't get a penny.

Dr Pearse, senior house surgeon at the Infirmary, examined : Last night, I saw the body at the house No 27 Bradford Road, the residence of the deceased. I made a *post mortem* examination of the body. He had been a well developed healthy man. I found nothing whatever to account for natural death. Externally I found a number of wounds, particularly on the right side of the face. Just below the right eye, there was a small wound with a contused edge to it. There were a number of wounds upon the head, especially upon the back part, and one very severe bruise external to the right temple. There was some blood issuing from the right ear. I reflected the scalp, and found small patches of extravasated blood corresponding with the wounds externally, especially those on the back of the head and the large wound on the right temple. On removing the top of the skull, which was not fractured, there was a large quantity of blood, about six ounces, extravasated on the brain, and a laceration of the brain substance, exactly corresponding with the bruise on the right temple, that laceration causing a separate extravasation of blood into the brain substance. The brain itself was perfectly healthy. The cause of death was no doubt from the extreme violence inflicted on the brain, the severe bruise being clearly the primary cause of death. That bruise was certainly one which could be inflicted with a clog. It must have been a severe kick, as the tissues were scarcely recognisable. Death would be produced by a kick from a man wearing clogs like those produced. The bruises which were in the face were such as would be produced by blows. The wound below the eye would be likely to be caused by the iron of a clog, and the other bruises on the back of the head would also be likely to be produced by kicks. The prisoners having been asked if they had anything to say, Glenning said, on last Monday morning about eleven o'clock, I left Manchester to

walk to Leeds, with one or two more, Edward Hughes and W Hanner, on purpose to look for work. On Monday night, I reached as far as Huddersfield. We had but two shillings going away, and we got something to eat. We slept at the night asylum. About 12 on Tuesday reached Leeds and stayed there until the afternoon looking for work, and could not find any. I walked about the town till eight o'clock and, our money being spent, applied to an asylum for shelter. They took our name, residence, age and religion. About seven on Wednesday morning we left, looked for work, and finding none, me and Edward Hughes turned back to walk to Manchester, and Hanner said he was going to Hull. From Leeds to Manchester is 39 miles ; reached Manchester at half past eleven. I met Holland's father, who asked me to go and have a cup of tea with him, and I did do so, intending to stop all night. I stayed there until the officer fetched me. I went into the asylum at Leeds under the name of John Jones. I told the officer there I belonged to Liverpool ; and the reason I gave the name of Jones was I intended to stay a day or two, and they won't allow the same person to stay two nights. Holland said, on Monday night about nine o'clock, he went away with a man named Hall, who worked at Platt's at Oldham, to look for work. He could get no work, and walked back to Manchester. He remained at a house where there was a wake until the officer came for him. Rogers asked for a remand, saying there were some more "prisoners" ; he was not going to have the killing put on him when he had nothing to do with it. Mr Fowler : There are no prisoners except you four. I can't give you a remand, as you have no reasonable ground for asking one. Craven denied being present during the row, and said that a person told him that a man was killed, and that he (his informant) could tell who did it. Glenning called witnesses – Edward Hughes deposed that he and Glenning returned from Leeds on Wednesday night, and he left him at Holland's father's. John Hanner, who had also been in Glenning's company at Leeds, said that from the time Glenning left him at Leeds at ten o'clock in the morning, it was utterly impossible that Glenning could have been in Manchester at the time of the murder, for he could not have walked the distance in the time. A man named Fox said he saw Holland pass by his door in Back Long Street at 5.20 on Wednesday evening and go into Bagshaw's beerhouse. His home would be about half a mile from Jersey Street. Inspector Bateman said that a man going from Jersey Street to Bagshaw's beerhouse would pass Fox's door. Some other evidence of a similar nature was offered, and Mr Fowler, in committing the prisoners on a charge of manslaughter, reminded them that the offence had been on the very verge of murder.

The court rose shortly before nine o'clock, the enquiry having lasted about six hours.

The inquest on the body of William Lee, self acting minder of Bradford Road, the nature of whose death was reported on Thursday, was held yesterday by Mr Herford, at his court in Ridgefield. The deceased was 40 years of age and leaves a widow and five children. The witnesses were the same as those examined before Mr Fowler, and gave the same testimony, and the enquiry was adjourned till Thursday next.

88 4 October 1866

THE MANSLAUGHTER IN JERSEY STREET Another man, of the name of John Dorning, was yesterday committed, at the City Police Court, on a charge of being concerned in killing the man William Lee in Jersey Street on the evening of the 26th September. The prisoner was apprehended in Wigan by Sergeant Aaron Rowbotham, and said, after being taken into custody :- "We were all drunk together in a beerhouse of the sign of the Beehive ; we went out to have a fight amongst ourselves, and the boatman came up with a horse. I got onto it to attract the attention of the others who were fighting, and the boatman asked me to get off. The gentleman who is dead asked me to get off, and attempted to push me off, but he was set on by the others and knocked down. Then I jumped off the horse and ran away. " The two women, Fowler and Foster, who gave evidence on the previous examination, were called, and identified the accused as being the man whom they saw on the horse's back when the man Lee was attacked. The witnesses had picked the prisoner out from amongst a number of others at the police station. Mrs Foster said she did not see the prisoner touch the deceased by knocking his hat over his eyes, but the prisoner slipped off the horse on to the man's neck. In answer to Mr Fowler, she added that she believed the prisoner might have done this

unintentionally.

89 21 November 1866

THEFT BY A BOATMAN Yesterday at the City Police Court, **John Hitchin**, a boatman, was summarily committed for three months with hard labour, on a charge of stealing two bundles of calico of the value of £15, the property of Messrs Jackson and Sons, manufacturers, Portland Street. The goods had been placed on board the boat on which the prisoner was engaged, and he was seen to remove them onto the wharf in Stanley Street, when information was given to the police and he was taken into custody.

90 30 November 1866

FOUND DROWNED On Thursday morning at eight o'clock, a boatman named **James Banner** discovered the body of a young man, name unknown, floating in the canal near Castlefield. The corpse had apparently been in the water for many days. An inquest was held yesterday before the city coroner, and an open verdict was returned. There were no marks of violence on the body.

91 8 December 1866

South Lancashire Assizes

THE JERSEY STREET OUTRAGE Joseph Rogers, 19, Henry Holland, 23, John Glenning, 20, Thomas Craven, 18, John Dorning, 18, Joseph Sloane, 22 and Richard McCready were indicted for having, at Manchester on the 26th September, feloniously killed and slain William Lee. Mr West and Mr Hopwood were for the prosecution. Mr Higgin defended the prisoners Rogers and Dorning ; Mr E Jones appeared for Holland, McCready, Sloane and Craven ; and Mr Cobbett for Glenning.

Mr West said that the charge against the prisoners at the bar was one that would show a state of manners that was certainly very discreditable to the city. Mr West gave a brief outline of the case, stating that he would content himself by calling witnesses to detail the facts fully. The first witness was

Ellen Jewell, who was examined by Mr Hopwood. She said that she and her husband, who is a boatman, lived in their boat on the Wigan and Manchester canal. On Wednesday 26th September, they were going along Jersey Street about five o'clock in the evening, when they saw a number of young men at the corner of the street. Amongst them, she recognised the prisoner Joseph Rogers, who came behind her and put his arms around her neck. She turned round, went after him, and asked him what he did that for, upon which he stripped off his coat as if to fight. She left him and went back to her husband, Rogers following her. Nothing more was then done to her, but her husband came up and asked Rogers why he did not let his wife go about her business, A mob of about 25 young men then surrounded them, and commenced thrashing witness's husband about the head, and pulling the horse about. Rogers was amongst the number. One of the crowd got on to the horse's back, and witness and her husband tried to get away ; but one of the men caught hold of its head and another by its leg, and the animal could not move. William Lee, the deceased, came up and told the boy to get off the horse's back, but he would not do so. Lee had his hands in his pockets all the time. Rogers then came up, struck Lee on the side of the head, and knocked him down. Lee got up again, and the prisoner Holland knocked him down with a blow on the head. The deceased did not get up after that. There was a mob directly kicking him as he lay on the ground. Holland kicked him on the right temple, and all the other prisoners were there ; but witness could not tell which of the others kicked him. Witness's husband then went for a policeman, and when he came back with one, the crowd had disappeared, leaving deceased lying on the ground. The kicking of deceased on the ground lasted about four minutes. The lad who was on the horse's back jumped on to the deceased's neck ; that was before Holland kicked him. Witness was present at deceased's death. Nothing material was elicited in the witness's cross-examination.

Edwin Jewell, husband of the last witness, said he was leading a horse along Jersey Street on the day in question, when he saw a number of young men pushing his wife about. The prisoner Rogers went up an entry and made motions as if to fight. The prisoner Dorning got on to the horse, and

when witness asked him to get off, three or four persons behind began to thrash him. Whilst this was going on, the deceased came up and told the man to get off the horse, and asked him what right he had on the horse's back. He asked them why they could not let witness pass along the street quietly, and in the meantime, someone knocked his hat off, and Rogers and Holland knocked Lee down. Deceased got up and was again struck. Dorning and McCready struck witness, As soon as Lee was struck a second time, witness went for a policeman. He could not recognise anyone else as having been in the crowd but Holland, Rogers, Dorning and McCready. When witness returned, the deceased was quite dead, and witness and the policeman ran after Rogers and caught him in his mother's house. About ten o'clock the same evening, witness saw, at a public house, Holland and three others. One of these said, "That's the ---- that gave Rodgers in charge", and they made an attempt to follow him, but there were two detectives who prevented them. Witness appeared before the justices, and saw McCready, whom he recognised as having struck him. Cross-examined by Mr Higgin : Saw seven men at the police office the same night, and Rodgers was one of those seven. Was unable at the time to identify Rodgers, owing to having been beaten. Witness had never seen Dorning until now since the time he got on to the horse. Dorning was not before the magistrates on the 3rd December. Witness struck at the man who was on the horse with the end of the halter, but it did not touch more than his coat. It was not because of this that Rodgers struck witness, as Rodgers was striking Lee at the time.

By Mr Jones : Mary Fowler, widow, living in Bengal Street, said she saw a fight going on in Jersey Street, and men striking Lee. A boatman was there with his horse, and Dorning was on the horse's back. Dorning knocked the deceased's hat off. Lee appeared as if he was telling the man to get off the horse, and Rodgers struck Lee and knocked him down. Lee got up, and was struck again by Rodgers and Holland. Lee fell, and they commenced kicking him. There were four or five at him at a time, and there were several persons standing around. Sloane and McCready were in the crowd, and they kicked at Lee, although witness could not see that the kicks took effect. She could not identify any other as having kicked Lee, but Glenning and Craven were there, although she did not see these take any part in the kicking. Witness called out for the police, and the crowd separated. She lifted up Lee, and the deceased died in her arms. The body was afterwards shown to the doctor. By Mr Higgin : There was a great crowd, but there were not many women in it. There would be about 20 or 30 persons in the crowd. By Mr Jones : They were all strangers to me before that time. There were about four or five around Lee when he fell down.

Jane Foster identified Dorning as having been on the horse's back, and she heard Lee tell him to get off the horse and not be foolish. Dorning then knocked Lee's hat over his eyes, and Rodgers came up and knocked the deceased down. McCready also kicked the deceased while he was on the ground. Witness did not see anyone else kick Lee. She saw the deceased on the ground, and he was bleeding. She helped to pick him up, and Rodgers called her a ----mare, and moved as if to kick her. He did not kick her, however, owing to the appearance of a policeman. He ran away, and was pursued by the policeman and the boatman. Rodgers, McCready and Sloane were amongst the crowd. Witness did not see Sloane do anything. By Mr Higgin : The only persons she identified were Rodgers, Mc Cready, Sloane and Dorning.

William Barber said he saw the disturbance in Jersey Street, and was 30 or 40 yards from the crowd. He only saw a shower of blows. As the crowd separated, he saw Craven, who was running with the rest. This was all he saw Craven do.

Police-constable Joseph Simpson said that on Wednesday the 26th of September, Jewell came to him, and he went with him to Jersey Street. This would be about twenty five minutes to six o'clock. He saw Lee lying on the ground, and on going to the corner of Bengal Street, he saw a number of men running away. He pursued a man through several streets until he got to Poland Street, where he saw the man go into a house. He followed after the man, whom he found lying on the stairs, and brought him out, when Jewell said "that was the man, and he was one of the worst". That man was Rodgers. Rodgers was charged by the superintendent with wilful murder, and Rodgers, in reply, said, I was not the only one, there were about 24 of us. Rodgers had a pair of clogs on his feet. By Mr Higgin : Never lost sight of Rodgers until he got into the house. Re-examined : Rodgers, when I

caught him, appeared very much out of breath.

David Ackerley said he was along with William Lee in Bengal Street before the row began. Lee told the man not to ill use the woman Jewell. That man was Rodgers. Rodgers struck Lee and knocked his hat off. The hat rolled a few yards, and Lee followed it, Rodgers going after him and striking him again. Holland and Stone also struck Lee. Witness then ran to Lee's assistance, and was knocked down by a man not in custody. Witness saw all the prisoners in the crowd, and Dorning was getting onto the horse as witness ran off and was knocked down. Except the men he had named, he did not see the other prisoners do anything.

Inspector Henry Bateman said he took Craven into custody, and in answer to the charge, he said, "I was not there ; I know nothing about it. I know nothing about these men".

Sergeant Rowbotham deposed to having apprehended Holland in a house in Long Street, Ancoats. Witness then went to the house of Holland's father in Whittaker Court, and took Glenning. On charging the prisoners at the station, they denied any knowledge of the transaction. On the 3rd of October, witness apprehended Dorning in Wigan. Dorning said, "We were all together at the Beehive, Jersey Street ; we went out on purpose to fight. When the boatman came up the street with a horse, I got on to the horse for the purpose of attracting the attention of the others that were fighting. The boatman asked me to get off and also the gentleman that is dead, and the gentleman that is dead attempted to push me off, and I then jumped off the horse and ran away". Witness afterwards took McCready on the 27th November in a court off George Leigh Street, Ancoats, and he said that anything he had to say he should reserve for another time. Cross-examined by Mr Jones : Holland said that he was at Oldham, and he did not know anything about it.

Sergeant Francis Butler deposed that he apprehended Sloane in a street in Ancoats. Sloane, in answer to the charge, said that he was in the Beehive, Jersey Street, drunk and asleep, an hour before and half an hour after the row, and that Mrs McKnight, the landlady, could prove the fact.

Mr Pearse, senior house surgeon at the Infirmary, who made the *post mortem* examination of the body of the deceased, said that he found nothing to account for natural death. He found a number of bruises on the face and head, and especially on the back part of the head. There was a small contused wound under the right eye ; one very severe bruise a little external to the right temple, and some blood issuing from the right ear. There were no bruises on the body. There was an aggregation of bruises on the head. The most serious bruise was that on the right temple. On removing the scalp, witness found numerous extravasations of blood corresponding to the external bruises. There was no fracture of the bones. On removing the top of the skull, he found six or seven ounces of blood extravasated on the brain, and a laceration of the brain substance exactly corresponding with the severe bruise external to the right temple. This one injury would quite account for death. Some of the bruises might have been caused by a blow from a fist, and the others might have been inflicted by clogs such as those produced. Cross-examined by Mr Higgin : In the absence of laceration of the brain and the corresponding external injury on the temple, I could not have attributed death to the other injuries.

The statements of the prisoners Glenning, Holland and Craven made before the magistrates were read. Glenning stated that he had been at Leeds in search of employment, and that after returning home, he stayed at the house of Holland's father until he was taken. Holland said he had been at Oldham, and on his return on the night in question, he stayed in a house opposite that in which there was a "wake". Craven said he was in his own house at the time of the row. A friend came and told him that a man was dead, and on going out he saw a crowd running and a policeman following. He ran after them, but had nothing to do with the assault.

By direction of the judge, and with the assent of the prosecution, the prisoners Craven and Glenning were acquitted, the evidence failing to inculcate them in the violence that had been used towards the deceased, and showing that they had only been mixed in the crowd.

Mr Higgin, in addressing the jury on behalf of his clients, said that although the unfortunate man Lee had undoubtedly met his death in a violent manner, and that it was an offence of great enormity and discreditable to the city, yet the jury would not allow themselves to rush to conclusions unless they were absolutely and positively convinced in their own minds of the reliability of the evidence.

After Dorning's statement to the officer on being arrested, the ground was taken from under his (counsel's) feet. Dorning had admitted being on the horse, and therefore his case must be taken as clearly proved. The statement, however, of Mrs Jewell, who said that Dorning had slipped from the horse on to Lee's neck, was uncorroborated, and it was more reasonable to suppose that the statement he made at Wigan was nearer the truth. The laceration of the brain spoken of by the surgeon could not be caused by the mere knocking off of Lee's hat, and there was nothing to show that Dorning had subsequently taken an active part in the affray. It would be impossible to contend that Rodgers was not present. Witnesses had said that he had knocked Lee down, but the cause of death was not by blows but by kicks, and there was no evidence as to Rodgers having kicked the deceased.

Mr Jones, on behalf of Holland, McCready and Sloane said that Mary Fowler was the most formidable witness against McCready, but identification must be extremely doubtful, considering that the prisoner was a stranger to her, and that there was a crowd of 30 or 40 persons present. It was only said that McCready was like Holland, and that did not remove the identification beyond the region of doubt. With respect to Sloane, the evidence was contradictory ; and as regarded Holland, although the evidence against him was exceedingly strong, yet the evidence in his favour was exceedingly strong too. The learned counsel called witnesses to prove an alibi for Holland.

Michael Curley said that on the 26th of September he saw Holland in Oldham Street at half past three o'clock. Mary Ann Kelly stated that on the day in question she saw Holland at the corner of Oldham Road at ten minutes after five o'clock. Holland said he was going to Bagshawe's beerhouse, and witness afterwards saw him there about half past five o'clock. She stayed with him and his wife and father until after six o'clock. In cross-examination by Mr West, the witness said that Bagshawe's beerhouse was ten minutes walk from Jersey Street. Sarah Alice Taylor, a servant at Bagshawe's beerhouse, stated that on the 26th of September, Holland was in the house at half past five. He remained in there up to half past eight. John Lacey stated that he saw Holland at Bagshawe's beerhouse on the night in question, and remained with him until ten o'clock. Cross-examined : Holland had called in the interval at witness's father's house. Margaret Holland, the prisoner's sister, stated that on the 26th of September she heard of Mr Lee's death. On the evening of that day, her brother was at Bagshawe's beerhouse at ten minutes after six o'clock. There was a wake in the neighbourhood, and her brother was there at a quarter to ten o'clock. John Craven, brother of the prisoner Craven said that Holland and Glenning were not on the spot when the attack was committed upon the deceased. Helen Ireland said that she lived at the Beehive in Jersey Street. She remembered the evening of the death of Mr Lee. She was then standing on the steps of the Beehive. During the time the row was going on, Sloane was asleep in the taproom. He went out about twenty five minutes past six o'clock. In cross-examination, the witness said she could only remember Sloane, although about 25 young men were present. Hannah McKnight, landlady of the Beehive, said that Sloane was in the house about three o'clock. About 24 came in about that time, and they all left except Sloane, who remained in the house asleep, and he was there during all the time the row was going on. John Connelly gave similar evidence. He left Sloane asleep in the house at ten minutes to five o'clock. He saw Rodgers, McCready, Sloane and Holland there. He went back, and found Sloane in the same position.

Mr Jones having summed up, Mr West replied.

His lordship, in summing up, said that the evidence of the surgeon showed that the kick of which the deceased died was that of one person, but it was for the jury to say whether the prisoners were acting in concert for the common purpose of beating Mr Lee. If so, they would be equally guilty of manslaughter. The jury found all the prisoners guilty of manslaughter, and his lordship, in passing sentence, said that they had been convicted of the crime of manslaughter, a crime which differed much in degree, but in this instance it was quite clear that a very large number of rough characters went out for the purpose of assaulting quiet and peaceable inhabitants. They did assault Jewell and his wife, when the unfortunate man Lee came forward to do no more than what was his duty as a man, when the prisoners fell upon him and kicked him in a way that resulted in his death. The evidence showed that Holland was the person who inflicted the serious kick which caused the death

of Mr Lee. The question in this case was whether it would not have been murder, and the probability, he thought, if the indictment had been for murder, that the result would have been the same. Holland had been found guilty of occasioning a man's death when he was lying helpless on the ground ; and under such circumstances a very severe sentence must be passed. He was sentenced to penal servitude for 15 years. Although Rodgers did not inflict such severe kicks as Holland, yet he was one of the most active in the assault, and he was sentenced to penal servitude for 10 years. As to Sloane and McCready, the evidence showed that they kicked the deceased on the ground, but he did not think they took so active a part as the other two, and he should sentence them to five years penal servitude each. Dorning's case was not so bad as the others, yet he was a party to the assault and riot ; but in looking at the evidence, there was nothing to show that he kicked the deceased on the ground. His lordship said he should not, therefore, treat Dorning similarly to the others, but pass upon him the same sentence as he should have done if the man had lived, which was 18 months hard labour.

92 14 December 1866

A BOATMAN DROWNED Mr Herford, city coroner, yesterday held an inquest touching the death of **John Shoebottom**, aged 55 years, a boat captain, lately of Letchford, near Warrington. About one o'clock on Wednesday morning, the deceased was crossing a bridge which spans the canal at Castle Wharf near Water Street when, in consequence of the structure being in bad repair, he stumbled and fell into the water. He was drowned. The woodwork of the bridge was rather loose underfoot, and there were one or two holes in the footway. The jury, in returning a verdict of "Accidental death" blamed the Bridgewater trustees, who own the bridge, for not keeping it in good repair.

93 23 February 1867

CHARGE OF ROBBING A BOATMAN At the Salford Town Hall, yesterday, before the mayor (Mr H D Pochin) and Mr Henry Leigh Trafford, **Robert James** and **James Boston**, apparently boatmen, and Hannah Hescott were charged with felony. The prosecutor, **James Farnworth**, is a boatman living at Runcorn. On Wednesday evening last about half past nine o'clock, he was drinking at the Hen and Chickens public house, Salford, in company with Boston and Hescott. Next morning, about half past one, they all three left the house and proceeded to the prosecutor's boat, which was then near the lock, a short distance from Oldfield Road. Arrived there, they went into the cabin, and prosecutor fell asleep. On awakening shortly afterwards, he found that his purse, which had contained a sovereign and a half, had been taken from his pocket and was lying on the floor. Boston and Hescott were both in the cabin, but they denied having taken money from the purse. Hescott left the cabin, and Farnworth endeavoured to follow her, but Boston prevented him for some time, and when he did get out, Hescott was out of sight. Afterwards he went to the Hen and Chickens, where he found Boston and James, and caused them to be apprehended. The evidence against James was that on Wednesday night, the prosecutor met him as he was going to his boat, and prisoner asked him where the boat was lying. When Farnworth returned to the boat, he missed his watch and chain, which had been left in the cabin ; and the next day they were pawned at a shop in Manchester by a boatman named **Ogden**, living at Hulme, at the instance of James and the female prisoner. Ogden received 2s 6d for his trouble. The prisoners made no defence, and were committed for trial at the Salford intermediate sessions, which commence next Monday.

94 15 March 1867

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A BOATMAN An inquest was held yesterday before the city coroner, Mr Herford, on the body of a man named **John Atkins**, who met with his death through an accident in getting a boat through a lock on the canal. By some means, the deceased's leg was caught in a coil of rope which was being rapidly paid out, and the limb was crushed against the side of the lock. He was conveyed to the Infirmary, where he died. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

95 15 March 1867

CUTTING AND WOUNDING AT ASPULL James Thompson aged 24 was charged with having, at Aspull on the 3rd January, cut and wounded **John Deakin**, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm. Mr Richard was counsel for the prosecutor ; the prisoner was undefended. The prosecutor is a boatman. On the 3rd of January, he went into a public house at Aspull, in which was the prisoner. They sat round a table and had some beer, the prisoner being rather the worse for liquor. Suddenly, without provocation, the prisoner jumped upon the table and attempted to kick the prosecutor, and challenged him out to fight. The two men went out into the yard to fight, and while they were in the yard, prisoner struck at the prosecutor, who closed with him and threw him on to the ground. They wrestled and then got up, and prosecutor went back into the kitchen of the house. Prisoner was seen to pull out a knife and follow the prosecutor, whom he struck a serious blow about the abdomen. The wound was a very serious one, and had it not been for the prosecutor being very stout, would, in the opinion of the medical man, have ended in his “kicking the bucket”. The jury found the prisoner guilty of the full charge, and his lordship, after remarking upon the serious character of offences with the knife, passed a sentence of 15 months imprisonment with hard labour.

96 16 July 1867

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A BOATMAN Yesterday, at the New Bailey, **David Rathbury**, a boatman, was charged with having shot at three boys named Nicholson, Hacking and Hill, near Ancoats Bridge on the Rochdale canal. The offence was committed on Sunday afternoon. The prisoner was on the deck of the boat, which was conveying a cargo of slates along the canal, the owner of the boat being at the time on the bank in charge of the horse. It appears that for some time past, boatmen on the canal have been greatly annoyed by numbers of boys shouting at them as they passed, and frequently throwing stones and rubbish on to the deck. The prisoner was, on Sunday afternoon, subjected to this annoyance, and among the boys, as he alleged, were the complainants. He submitted for a time, but at last he warned them that should they continue offensive, he would certainly shoot them. A gun was kept by the owner of the boat, hung up in the cabin, for the protection of the cargo, it being frequently “impossible” for them to go along with safety. The boys took little heed of the warning, and continued throwing stones, upon which the prisoner fired the gun, and some of the shots hit the three complainants, fortunately without occasioning to either of them much injury. They all three denied having taken part in offensive proceedings. The owner of the boat said he was not aware that the gun was loaded, and he did not believe the prisoner knew it. His idea was that all the man intended to do was to frighten the boys, and not hurt them. He was a steady, well behaved man. The policeman who apprehended the prisoner said that complaint was made to him at the time of the conduct of the boys, and he had heard of many similar complaints previously. The magistrate (Mr J S Mayson) said the charge was a serious one, but he was willing to believe that the prisoner did not intend to injure either of the boys in the least, and that he had received great provocation. He must certainly not use the gun again under any such circumstances, and he (the magistrate) hoped this would be a warning. The case was dismissed.

97 26 August 1867

BANKRUPTS JENKINS Thomas, boatman Ynysodydwg, Eglwysilan, Glamorganshire, September 4.

98 20 September 1867

ASSIGNMENT, COMPOSITION, INSPECTORSHIP AND TRUST DEEDS

James Mornington, late of the Black Swan Inn, Monmouth, innkeeper, but now of St James's Street in the said town, wood turner and boatman – composition of 2s 6d in the pound within three calendar months.

99 22 October 1867

CASES OF DROWNING At the City Coroner's Court, yesterday, an inquest was held on the body

of **Edward Cutler**, aged eleven years, son of **William Cutler**, boatman. On Sunday afternoon, the father of the deceased saw a cap floating about in the water at the Oxford Road Locks, and on missing the lad, a search was made in the lock for his body, which was got out about five minutes afterwards. It is supposed that the deceased had missed his footing while stepping on the boat and fallen into the lock. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned. Another inquest was held at the same place on the body of Alfred Goodier, aged ten years, residing at 44 Gilbert Street, Runcorn, who was drowned in the Rochdale Canal, Ancoats on Saturday afternoon last. Verdict, "Accidental death".

100 26 October 1867

THE FEARFUL ACCIDENT AT NORTHWICH On Wednesday a phaeton, drawn by two horses, belonging to the Misses Edwards of Gibb Hill, was returning from Northwich with Miss Emma Edwards seated behind, and Miss Joynson seated with the coachman, when the horses took fright, and started off down a rather steep hill about half a mile from the bridge and, becoming quite uncontrollable, rushed over the barrier and precipitated themselves, the vehicle and those in it into the river, with the fatal result of entire destruction of the horses and the lamented death of Miss E Edwards.

An inquest was held at the Best Way Inn, Barnton, on Thursday afternoon, before W J R Dunstan Esq. The jury viewed the body, which was lying at the bridge house, and also the scene of the accident.

James Hicton, labourer of Weaverham said : Yesterday (Wednesday) the 23rd October, between half past eleven and twelve o'clock at noon, I was on the Winnington side of the turnbridge over the Weaver. The bridge was open, a boat being a dozen yards below it. My attention was drawn to a noise of horses galloping. I saw two horses abreast drawing a phaeton, a man driving, a lady sitting beside him, and another lady in the hind seat. The horses were galloping as fast as they could. When the bridge is open, the road is barred by a sliding gate. That gate was across the road at the time. Just as the horses came up, Sproston, the bridgeman, had got the bridge nearly across, just room for a carriage to go over. The coachman either jumped out or was thrown out about eleven yards from the bridge. The horses drew up a little. Suddenly they sprang off with double vigour ; both horses leaped the gate with their fore feet. There was a crash of timber, the gate breaking, and the carriage with the ladies upset down into the river. A boat was brought up. Miss Joynson, one of the ladies, got clear of the carriage, and she was taken out immediately. She was taken into Mr Henshall's house. Miss Edwards, the deceased, was with her back against the Barnton side of the bridge, the horses plunging in the water near her. A boat hook was placed in her hands. She took hold of it, and lost her hold of it. The boatman got her out. She bled at the nose ; she never spoke. There was no screaming after they were in the water. Deceased was carried to Mr Henshall's, and placed upon a chair. On the way, she opened one eye for a moment ; she gurgled in her throat once, and then died. Mr Moreton, the surgeon, was in Mr Henshall's house with deceased's body when I left. When in the water, one of the horses struck deceased upon the breast with its fore feet. Miss Joynson was taken out after deceased. I did not see either go wholly under the water.

William Sproston of Winnington, bridgekeeper : I heard the horses, and saw the coachman shout, "Turn the bridge on". I turned the bridge as fast as possible, but before I could wholly make the road, the horses were there. I saw the coachman throw himself off 11 yards before the bridge, and then the horses leaped the gate.

George Davies, coachman to the Misses Edwards, gave similar evidence. Mr Thomas Moreton, surgeon, said : From the evidence given today, the deceased could not have been drowned, but must have died either from internal rupture or from the shock to the system, she having disease of the heart perhaps. She was a stout woman. She was 64 years of age. Verdict "Accidentally killed".

Northwich Guardian

101 30 November 1867

FATAL ACCIDENT IN THE RIVER MERSEY On Sunday evening, a gentleman ran down the slip at Seacombe for the purpose of catching the quarter before ten o'clock boat to Liverpool, and on

jumping to get on board the Wild Rose, which was just leaving, he fell into the water and was carried away by the tide, all efforts to save him being in vain. His body was found by a flatman named **John Miller**, between one and two on Monday morning, entangled in the chains connected with Egremont slip. In the pockets of the deceased were found three shipping memoranda, and on the back of one was the name of W J Cook. These seem to connect him with the Albert Dock warehouses.

102 2 December 1867

BANKRUPTS **HAMPSON John**, boatman, late of Lower Tranmere, Cheshire. December 10.

103 10 December 1867

South Lancashire Assizes

NISI PRIUS COURT

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE BRIDGEWATER CANAL – ACTION AGAINST THE TRUSTEES FOR DAMAGES

SHOEBOTTOM ADX v EGERTON AND OTHERS The Attorney General (Mr Temple QC) and Mr Leresche were for the plaintiff, and Mr Quain QC with Mr Crompton for the defendant. The plaintiff, **Harriet Shoebottom**, was the widow of **John Shoebottom**, a boat captain who met with his death on the 12th December 1866, crossing a bridge over a basin in the canal yard near Wellington Street, Liverpool Road, Manchester. The defendants are the trustees of that canal, and the action was brought to recover pecuniary compensation suffered by the widow in consequence of her husband's death. The defendants denied that the Queen's subjects had a right to use the bridge in question, and also denied that Shoebottom was a boatman navigating the canal at the time the accident occurred. The deceased had the management of two boats belonging to Messrs Brundrett and Whileway called the *Dew* and the *Rock*, and acted as captain of the first named boat. He was in the habit of making two or three trips every week, and his nett earnings amounted from £3 to £3 10s per week. The deceased on the night in question had moored his boat near the Harrington Wharf. He went into Manchester for the purpose of business, and meeting with a friend of his, they went into a public house and had a glass there, but were both perfectly sober when they left the house, between twelve and one o'clock, to return to their boats. The deceased's boat was in the Harrington wharf, and that of his friend in the Salford Corporation Yard, Ordsall Lane. They went into the Duke's yard on their way, where there are the potato and market basins. The friend, whose name is **John Beck**, then parted company with the deceased, as the nearest road to his boat was by a different way. Beck saw the deceased go up the steps on to the bridge ; and the deceased, when he got on to the bridge, called out to him, "Good night". Beck turned round, saw the deceased go along the bridge and then disappear, and then heard a plunge in the water. Beck shouted for, and obtained, aid. They found Shoebottom standing stuck fast in the mud at the bottom, with the water up to his eyes. He was quite dead. Next morning, Beck went and examined the floor of the bridge through which Shoebottom fell. He found that it had a hole in the centre about 18 inches broad, and 4 or 5 feet long. The other timber of the bridge was rotten. Witnesses were called to prove that they had had very narrow escapes of being drowned on passing over the same bridge. George Thompson said, on crossing the bridge the week before the fatal accident to the deceased occurred, the bridge broke under him, but he saved himself by catching hold of the rails on the side of the bridge ; and John Kershaw said that he had met with a similar accident there. Evidence was also given that the general public were in the habit of using the bridge. When the plaintiff had closed, Mr Quain submitted that no liability had been shown. It was shown that the deceased was not using either of the wharves, over one of which the bridge went, and that the proper road to his boat was not over the bridge at all, as in crossing it he was altogether out of his way. He also submitted that there was duty towards Shoebottom, on behalf of the Bridgewater trustees, to keep the bridge in repair. The Judge held that there was evidence to go to the jury upon the whole case. Mr Quain then addressed the jury on behalf of the defendants. He argued that the deck formed no part of the Bridgewater system ; it was private property, and the public had no right there. He also said that the accident was attributable not to the state of the bridge, but to the fact that the deceased was in a state

of intoxication at the time he crossed the bridge. Witnesses were then called for the defence, who stated that the deceased was a stout man and that he was very drunk on the night in question. The deceased, when taken out of the water, was found lying on his back with his head under the water. He was on the Manchester side of the canal, and it was suggested that he might have fallen over the parapet. Evidence was also called to prove that the hole in the bridge was only ten inches wide, and was not large enough to allow a man to fall through. The strength of the bridge had been tested by four men jumping upon it at once, and it did not give way in the least. The hole was only ten inches wide across the bridge. The Judge, in summing up, held that there was no question of law involved. The question was, whether or not the defendants had the accesses to the canal, such as this was, in a proper state of repair. He would, if necessary, review the point of law raised by Mr Quain. He gave leave to move whether the land having been bought from Mr Lloyd made any difference in the liability. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £400.

104 14 December 1867

Cheshire Assizes

GROSS ASSAULT **John Barrow**, boatman, for grossly assaulting Mary Hall at Lymm on the 7th of June, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

105 5 September 1868

THE LATE WRECKS : RECOVERY OF BODIES On Thursday Mr Clarke Aspinall held inquests upon the bodies of three men unknown, found at various times in the Channel, and supposed to be persons who had suffered shipwreck during the late storm. One of the bodies was found about noon on Wednesday, floating in the river between New Brighton and Egremont, and was picked up by persons on board the steamtug *Superb*. The deceased appeared to be about 35 years of age, 5 feet 6 1/2 inches in height, dark hair and sandy whiskers. He had a star and M B tattooed on the back of his left hand, and on the right, the same letters and the American coat of arms. He appeared to have been some days in the water. The second body was picked up by a boatman named **John Smith** about ten o'clock yesterday morning in the Crosby channel. He had a tattooed mark like a ring on the third finger of the left hand. He was 5 feet 8 in height and of stout build. Decomposition prevented any recognition of the features. He was dressed in a blue guernsey shirt, white flannel singlet and brown tweed trousers, white flannel drawers and had on one sea boot. The third body was picked up yesterday by **John Hampson**, a boatman, between Seacombe and Egremont. It was almost in a state of nudity, having on only one Wellington and a portion of striped flannel drawers. The deceased was about 5 feet 8 ins high, of stout build, and apparently about 40 years of age. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned" in each case.

106 12 October 1868

THE CHARGE OF SHOOTING AT FOUR CHILDREN IN LEICESTER At the Town Hall, Leicester, on Friday, before Mr Bowmar and other magistrates. **Charles Mitchell**, 17 years of age, a boatman of Cleethorpes Road, Grimsby, was brought up on remand charged with shooting at Edwin Brown, 12 years of age, and three other children (Arthur Bull, 13, John Shelton, 9 and Emma Food, 8) with intent to do grievous bodily harm, on Thursday the 1st instant. It will be remembered that on the above day a number of children connected with the Wesleyan Sunday schools were playing in the meadow adjoining the canal, when some of them threw stones at the accused's boat as it was passing along, upon which the prisoner went into the cabin, fetched out a gun, and fired at them, wounding the above named and injuring Brown seriously. The court was crowded, and the prisoner seemed to feel his position acutely, as he was observed to shed tears. The only additional evidence was that of Charles Bass, a Sunday school teacher, and John Hugh Shelton, one of the injured boys. The former stated he saw the boat pass and some children throwing stones into the canal, when he heard the report of a gun. On turning round, he saw the prisoner at the helm taking a gun from his shoulder and put it into the cabin. Brown's face was streaming with blood, and witness ran towards the boat and told the boy in charge of the horse to stop ; but the prisoner would not let him, and said he was to go on, as there was nothing the matter. On the boat nearing the bank side, witness

boarded it and asked the prisoner what he fired for, when he replied that he did not know the gun was loaded. Witness told him that was nonsense, he must have known it, when he answered, "I did not think it would have carried so far, I never had a gun in my hand before in my life, and did not think I could have aimed so straight". On reaching the locks, Mr Annis, another teacher, came up as well as the captain of the boat, and the prisoner was taken into custody. He pointed out where the gun was in the cabin, as well as the powder flask. John Shelton said he was with some boys who were throwing stones, first at a swallow, and then at the boat as it passed, when prisoner fired, saying he would "put that into them". Witness was struck by the shot on the right eyelid, left temple and left wrist, the shot on the former place coming out last Friday morning. A certificate was read from Mr C R Crossley, surgeon, stating that, although progressing favourably, Edwin Brown was not able to attend the court and give evidence. The prisoner was then further remanded for a week, and as he was removed from the court appeared much dejected and distressed at having perpetrated such a wanton and rash act.

107 29 October 1868

THE CHARGE OF SHOOTING AT FOUR CHILDREN At the Leicester adjourned Borough Sessions on Monday, **Charles Mitchell**, 16, boatman, was charged with maliciously shooting Edwin Brown, aged 12. It will be remembered that the children of the Wesleyan Sunday school were playing in a field adjoining the Leicester Canal, and that some were amusing themselves throwing stones into the water, when the prisoner came by in a barge, which he was steering. He went into the cabin, fetched out a gun, and took aim at the children. The charge took effect in the face of a boy, causing severe injury to his right eye, and also wounding three others. Mr Inglesant, for the defence, urged that the prisoner had no idea that the gun was loaded with shot. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and the learned recorder, after giving him a severe reprimand, sentenced him to six months hard labour.

108 7 November 1868

MYSTERIOUS DEATH AT DUNHAM MASSEY On Thursday, Mr Dunstan held an inquest at the Bay Malton, Seaman's Moss Bridge, on the body of a man unknown. Police-constable Pickford deposed that on Wednesday a boatman named **Horsefield** had found a pistol on the canal bank near the Bay Malton. Witness went to the place and found a quantity of human brains on the grass by the towing-path. The canal was dragged, and the body of deceased was brought up. It was apparently, from the clothes, the body of a labouring man, probably about 40 or 50 years of age. He was dressed in a black cloth jacket, brown cloth waistcoat and cotton cord trousers. He wore laced boots, which were marked on the inside of the sole "64" and on the side of the ankle "Northampton" 1865. There were also the letters "C.M." which might mean Cheshire militia. In the pockets of the deceased were found a florin, four shillings and fivepence halfpenny in copper, a white pocket handkerchief, a comb and a quantity of gunpowder, caps and shot. The forehead of the deceased was shot away and the interior of the skull quite empty. The brains and the pistol were found at the same spot, about four yards from the edge of the canal bank. On stripping the deceased preparatory to interment, a portemonnaie was found in an inside vest pocket, containing £7 in gold and two letters written from Chipping and from Preston, Lancashire, which may lead to his identification. The envelope is much destroyed by water, but it can be made out that it has been sent to Liverpool, and bears the Preston post mark of October 30th. The police have communicated with Preston. The inquiry was adjourned for the attendance of Horsefield, and that further investigation might be made. *Altrincham Guardian*

109 7 January 1869

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST THE THAMES CONSERVANCY COURT Mr Langham, deputy coroner for Westminster, has resumed, at the Horseshoe Tavern, Little George Street, Westminster, the inquest on the body of James Burch aged 14 years. The enquiry lasted several hours, and involved questions of great importance to the rules and regulations of the Thames Conservancy

Court for guidance and protection of lightermen and others employed upon the Thames.

Joseph Harney, a bargeman, for thirty years in the employ of the Thames Conservancy, said he had frequently dredged under the arches of the bridges for ballast, but never knew of any signals being displayed. After the occurrence in question, he saw a basket hoisted over the dredger that was being worked at Vauxhall bridge. He put his hand up when he saw a vessel approaching, to signify that the arch was unsafe to pass under. Was quite sure that no signal was put up before the accident occurred.

John Wilks, a boatman, said that about eight o'clock on the 1st inst, he had charge of a boat attached to two barges laden with iron. The deceased and three other children were in the small boat. They were off Nine Elms. Approaching the arches of Vauxhall bridge, he heard a cry of, "Stop, go to the north". There was no signal visible. It was too late then to attend to the suggestion, and they went on. When about 200 yards from the bridge he heard the same cry again, and a person put his hands up as a signal of danger. He tried to get towards the north, but had not time, as the current was too strong and carried the boat against the bridge, causing it to sink. They were all thrown in the water, but were saved with the exception of the deceased. The occurrence might have been avoided if there had been a signal. He had been a captain of canal boats for 30 years, and it was the custom when an arch was blocked to put up a green flag with "Thames Conservancy" on it. This had been neglected at Vauxhall.

After some other evidence had been given,

An inspector of the Thames Conservancy, named Wingfield, said there was no bye law directing signals to be put up under arches. There was a very strong current at Vauxhall bridge. The persons might have taken earlier steps to avoid the arch, or they might have dropped anchor. There was room to pass the dredger if the craft were navigated by experienced hands. The dredger could have been seen as far off as the Pimlico pier if a proper look out had been kept. There had been no information given to the public navigating the river that a dredger was working under the arch.

The Coroner said there ought to be signals in these cases to prevent the recurrence of such an accident ; and he hoped that due precautions for the future would be taken ; but he could not see that a criminal charge could be brought home to anyone in the present case.

The jury returned a verdict, "That the deceased was drowned through the sinking of a certain boat, which was so sunk by the want of proper precautions and signals being placed by order of the Thames Conservancy".

110 17 May 1869

CRUSHED TO DEATH ON THE CANAL On Saturday morning, a young man named **James Capper**, a boatman in the employ of Mr Robert Tonge of Manchester, was driving a mule which was drawing two boats, one tied behind the other, along the canal from Manchester to Leigh, and when near Boothstown Bridge, Worsley, he happened to go on that side of the rope nearest the canal. While there the mule took fright, and Capper was thrown into the water. Before he could get out, the boats came up and crushed him to death.

111 12 July 1869

TWO SISTERS POISONED On Thursday afternoon last, two sisters, **Elizabeth**, 3 1/2 years and **Emma McVey**, 17 months, daughters of a flatman, were playing at low water on the shore outside the Herculaneum Dock at Liverpool, when they found some mussels on a vessels bottom, took them home, and in the evening they were boiled. The children ate them without removing the "beard", and in five minutes, they began to vomit. They were taken to a medical man, who administered emetics, but in less than half an hour from the attack, both were dead. Their mother had eaten eight of the mussels and vomited all night, though her illness did not begin to show until some hours after the children were dead. Dr Bennett, who had examined some mussels, alleged to be similar to those eaten by the deceased, under a microscope, stated at the inquest on Saturday that he found them to have enlarged livers, such as those to which medical authorities attributed a poisonous peculiarity. He was quite clear that there was metallic or mineral poison, caused by contact with the bottom of

the flat. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased had died from an irritant poison, resulting from eating mussels.

112 23 November 1869

PUSHING A CONTRACTOR INTO THE CANAL At the County Sessions room, Bolton, yesterday, **Henry Baker**, boatman, was charged with assaulting William Sharples, contractor and manager of the canal wharf belonging to Mr R Wilson of the Prestolee chemical works, under the following circumstances. Eight or ten days ago, the complainant, in marshalling the boats on the canal, displeased the defendant, and on Thursday afternoon last, as he was kneeling by the canal side washing his hands, the defendant came behind him and by a push of the knee sent him head first into the water, which at that point was six feet deep. He was partially stunned, and his eyes and mouth were filled with mud, but being able to swim he managed to get out. Defendant was committed for two months with hard labour, and ordered to pay the costs.

113 8 January 1870

Manchester City Sessions

SENTENCES THREE MONTHS **Joseph Walton**, 30, boatman, for stealing a rug of the value of 15s 6d, the property of Philip Hart.

114 13 April 1870

A WOMAN DROWNED IN THE IRWELL Mr Frederick Price, coroner for the Manchester district, held an inquest yesterday at the Royal Veteran Inn, Salford, respecting the death of Ann Blockley, aged 59, whose body was found in the Irwell on Sunday morning last. The husband of deceased, a shoemaker residing in Deansgate, stated that she was "in the habit of taking a drop of drink, and was very flighty". She had been drinking recently and, missing her on Saturday night, he made inquiries from the police, but could ascertain nothing of her whereabouts. A flatman named **Holt** stated that on Sunday morning he saw the woman struggling in the river opposite Water Street, and putting off in a boat he reached the spot. Deceased was dragged into the boat, but expired before medical assistance could be procured. The jury returned an open verdict.

115 19 April 1870

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS Yesterday, a boatman named **Thomas Bridge** was brought up at the City Police Court, charged with having worked a horse whilst in an unfit condition. Inspector Hargreaves said that he saw the defendant in charge of the horse attached to a boat on the Rochdale Canal. The animal was very lame, and was only fit to be destroyed. Mr Headlam fined the defendant 10s 6d and costs, and ordered the animal to be destroyed.

116 12 January 1874

Manchester City Sessions

The following additional sentences have been passed at these sessions :-
Nine months imprisonment : **James Whalen**, 19, boatman, for robbery.

117 21 January 1874

BIGAMY BY A BOATMAN Yesterday, at the Salford Police Court, **James Johnson**, a boatman residing at Clifton Place, Higher Broughton, was charged with bigamy. William Beale, a carter living in Little Bridgewater Street, Liverpool Road, said that on the 7th October 1844, he was present at the Manchester Cathedral when the prisoner was married to Martha Walker. Walker had lived with witness for the last two years apart from the prisoner, and she was still alive. Rachel Hamer said she lived at 13 Land Street, Rochdale Road. On the 20th October last, she was married to the prisoner at the Manchester Cathedral. She lived with him as his wife for four months. He represented to her that he was a widower, and had buried two wives. Prisoner was committed for trial at the assizes.

118 10 March 1874

A ROGUE AND A VAGABOND Yesterday at the Manchester County Police Court, **Samuel Meredith alias Bell**, a boatman of no settled place of abode, was brought up on remand charged with being, on the morning of the 23rd ult, in a farm yard on the estate of Sir Humphrey de Trafford with intent to commit a felony. The prisoner was seen by Police-constable Wilson close to a cote containing a number of ducks, and when the officer made his appearance, he endeavoured to strike him with a wooden rail, but Wilson knocked him down with his staff and secured him. In defence, prisoner said that he was so drunk as not to know what he was doing, but this was shown to be untrue. Mr Superintendent Bent said that before the prisoner was arrested, most of the farms in the neighbourhood of Old Trafford had had poultry stolen at different times, but since they had not missed any. Prisoner, who has twice been convicted for felony, was sent to gaol for three months with hard labour, as a rogue and a vagabond.

119 6 April 1874

JOHN ECCLES, a boatman living in Holland Street, Oldham Road, was charged at the County Police Court on Saturday with stealing a horse worth £40. The prisoner is alleged to have stolen the animal from a stable at the Navigation Inn, Newton Heath, and to have sold it to a horse jobber for £5. The prisoner, who is also wanted for a similar offence committed at Rochdale, was remanded.

120 6 April 1874

HORSE ROBBERIES At the Manchester County Police Court on Saturday, **John Eccles**, a boatman living in Holland Street, Oldham Road, Manchester, was brought up on remand charged with breaking into and entering a stable at the Navigation Inn, Holland Street, Newton Heath, and stealing a horse worth £40 belonging to a man named **Richard Heron**. The robbery was committed between 6pm on the 20th ult and 7am on the 21st, and information having been given to the police, the prisoner was apprehended by Detective Superintendent Lawton of Salford on the evening of the 21st in the Raven Hotel, Chapel Street, Salford, immediately after he had sold the horse to a horse jobber named William Graham for £5. Superintendent Bent having informed the Bench that a warrant had been issued for the prisoner's apprehension for stealing another horse at Rochdale, Sir J I Mantell remanded him until Monday.

121 8 April 1874

HORSESTEALING Yesterday, at the Manchester County Police Court, before Sir J I Mantell, **John Eccles**, a boatman, residing in Holland Street, Oldham Road, was brought up on remand charged with stealing two horses – one belonging to **Richard Heron**, boatman, Luddinden Foot, Yorkshire, and the other to a boatman named **Matthew Bird** of Rochdale – and was committed for trial at the sessions on both charges.

122 25 April 1874

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE FROM A LIVERPOOL LANDING STAGE On Thursday night, about seven o'clock, a man named Thomas Michael Jones, a tailor living at 24 Edgar Street, Liverpool, was seen by a boatman named **Kimmence**, who resides at 66 New Hedley Street, to jump from the Prince's landing stage into the river. The boatman immediately jumped into the river after him and, with the assistance of Police-constable 348, succeeded in rescuing him. When got out, Jones was unconscious and in a most prostrate state. He was at once conveyed to the receiving house at the Prince's Dock, where Mr Coyne applied the usual restoratives, and in about an hour succeeded in bringing him round. On regaining consciousness, Jones stated that he had been impelled to jump into the river by a voice telling him he must do it.

123 22 May 1874

GROSS CRUELTY TO A HORSE Yesterday at the Manchester County Police Court, before Sir J I Mantell and Mr Howarth Ashton, **James Johnson**, a boatman in the employ of Mr R Toft, Runcorn,

was charged with working a horse in an unfit condition yesterday morning on the Bridgewater Canal, Barton. Police-constable Lee said that the animal was suffering from excessive lameness, and was in a wretched condition. Defendant was fined £5 and costs, or in default of payment to go to gaol for two months.

124 13 June 1874

PUBLICAN SENT TO GAOL FOR CRUELTY TO A HORSE At the Salford Borough Police Court, before Sir J I Mantell and Aldermen Davies and Platt, **James Cottrill**, a boatman living in Quay Street, Manchester, was charged on remand with cruelty to a horse. Inspector Williamson of the Manchester Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said that about nine o'clock on Friday night last, he saw the defendant leading a horse along Cross Lane. It was walking on three legs, was exceedingly lame, and was unable to go any further. He was obliged to take it to the Town Hall on a float. Defendant said that when the officer saw him, he was merely taking the horse to a field for the owner. Sir J I Mantell discharged Cottrill and ordered that the owner of the horse - Daniel Wilson, landlord of the Hen and Chickens, Deansgate - should be proceeded against. Cottrill gave evidence to the effect that when the officer Williamson met him in Cross Lane, he had brought it from the Old Quay stables. It had been working for the Bridgewater Navigation Company, and he saw it pulling one of their boats a few days ago. Mr William Greaves, veterinary surgeon, said that he examined the horse on Saturday last and found it suffering from excessive lameness. He had never seen a horse in such a wretched condition, and it was certainly unfit for work. Defendant said this was the first horse that he had ever had, and he had only purchased it a fortnight ago at the Knott Mill fair. A few days ago, it fell into the Bridgewater Canal and hurt its head and fetlock joint. It had not been worked since, and had been carefully attended to in the stable. Sir J I Mantell said that in the course of his sad experience, he had never seen a case of such gross cruelty as that. Defendant would be sent to gaol for two months with hard labour. An application was subsequently made by Mr Law, solicitor, for the mitigation of the penalty to a fine, but it was refused, Sir J I Mantell remarking that the decision had been unanimously come to by the bench after most careful consideration.

125 13 June 1874

DESPERATE ATTEMPT OF WOMAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE - GALLANT RESCUE A young woman named Sarah Kershaw, charwoman, living at 10 William Street, Chapel Street, was charged with attempting to commit suicide by throwing herself into the river Irwell. **William Huntington**, a boy employed on a boat on the river Irwell, said that on Tuesday afternoon he was on his master's boat near Regent Road bridge, when he saw the prisoner jump into the river from the towing path. James Dowd, a bricklayer's labourer living at 28 Hambleton Street, Hulme, said that on Tuesday afternoon he was going along Regent Road when, from what the last witness told him, he ran down the embankment on to the towing-path of the river Irwell. He saw prisoner in the middle of the river, and having divested himself of his clothes, he jumped into the river, which was about eight feet deep and seventy feet wide. He swam to prisoner and took hold of her. She struggled violently and tried to get away from him. He retained his hold, and before he succeeded in dragging her to the side, he sank twice with her. With the assistance of James Smith, labourer, 23 Hanover Street, and Police-constable Sutherland of the D division of the Manchester police, witness got prisoner out of the river, and she was taken to the Salford Town Hall. Sir J I Mantell said that the witness Dowd was a very gallant fellow, and his praiseworthy conduct deserved recognition by the Royal Humane Society. Detective superintendent Lawton said it was a fit case for recognition, and he would call the attention of the Royal Humane Society to it. In committing the prisoner for trial at the sessions, Sir J I Mantell said he hoped, if she was convicted, that she would be very severely punished, as her frantic act had endangered a brave young fellow's life.

126 15 June 1874

NEGLECT OF FAMILY On Saturday at the Salford Police Court, before Sir J I Mantell, **George**

Waterworth, boatman, of no settled residence, was charged with neglecting his wife and three children and leaving them chargeable to the Salford Union since February last. Prisoner, who had been convicted of similar offences on two previous occasions, was sent to gaol for three months with hard labour.

127 23 July 1874

A RADCLIFFE MAN DROWNED On Tuesday night, Mr Edge, coroner, held an inquest at the Masons' Arms Inn, Radcliffe on the body of Hugh Whittle, 37 years of age, a maker up at a bleachworks, who was drowned on Saturday night in the Bury and Bolton Canal in Little Lever. It appeared deceased had been to Adlington to pay some ground rents, and on his return to Radcliffe he called at the Nob Inn, Little Lever, where he was seen in an intoxicated state about nine o'clock by **James Calton**, a boatman. Thomas Callighan, a boy, saw him struggling in the canal near Messrs Broadbent's paper mill between ten and eleven o'clock, and went to some houses adjacent for assistance. The body was recovered by two men named Thomas Tyler and James Briggs, and was taken to Radcliffe, where deceased resided, in a canal boat. Police-constable Gresty said the deceased's watch had stopped at five minutes past ten o'clock, and his body was about twenty five minutes in the water. Mrs Elizabeth Whittle said the deceased, her husband, was not addicted to drink, and she had not seen him intoxicated since Whitsuntide. A juryman told the Coroner that when the deceased got a little drink, it seemed to effect his legs more than his head. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

128 7 August 1874

Chester Assizes

Henry Edge, 43, flatman, Chester, was indicted for marrying Eliza Hiron at St John's Church, Chester, on the 11th of January last, his wife being then alive. The prisoner married his first wife in 1851, and in a short time after went to America. He returned in eight or nine years, and took up his residence in Chester. Here, he formed the acquaintance of Eliza Knox during last year, to whom he represented that he was a married man, but that his first wife had married again. He induced the woman Knox to go through the ceremony of marriage, at the same church as he had previously been married at, and soon after his second wife discovered that his first wife was still alive and was residing in Chester. Guilty. As the prisoner had borne a good character, the judge sentenced him to one months imprisonment with hard labour.

129 19 August 1874

County Police Court

STEALING A WHEELBARROW Enoch Williams, labourer, was charged with stealing a wheelbarrow from the wharf at Worsley. It was proved that the prisoner stole the barrow, the property of Messrs Verdun, and afterwards sold it to a boatman named **Cheetham** for 3s, but its value was 10s. The prisoner was afterwards apprehended, and he said he got the barrow out of the canal. The prisoner was committed for trial at the sessions.

130 21 August 1874

Salford Hundred Intermediate Sessions

SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT **Edward Hanson**, a boatman, stealing lead at Droylsden belonging to Christopher J Schofield.

131 26 August 1874

DEATH FROM SUNSTROKE AT CLIFTON Yesterday, Mr F Price, the district coroner, held an inquest at the Bee Hive Inn, Rake Lane, Clifton, on the body of **Ellen Lee**, aged eight years, daughter of **Robert Lee**, employed as a boatman by the Clifton and Kersley Coal Company, and who resides at Rams Fold in the above township. **Ann Lee** said on Saturday last, deceased went into the fields along with five other children, and was brought home quite dead. There were no marks of violence upon her. It was a very hot afternoon, and she was persuaded that the deceased's death was the result of sun-stroke. Deceased became black about the head and ears almost as soon as she was dead. Mary Ann Rostron deposed that she saw the deceased playing on some boards or

pieces of timber. Saw her fall forward off the timber on to the grass ; the girl's lips immediately went black and she closed her eyes and died. The day was very hot and deceased had no hat on, and there was nothing to shade deceased from the burning sun. There were no wild poisonous berries about that she could have eaten. Witness believed that the intense heat of the sun at the time was the cause of death. The Coroner, in summing up, said it was quite clear that the deceased died from concussion of the brain, which was commonly called sun-stroke. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

132 26 August 1874

PETITIONS FOR LIQUIDATION BY ARRANGEMENT **Mark Hossell**, Kilnhurst near Rotherham, Yorkshire, shopkeeper and boatman.

133 10 September 1874

Salford Borough Police Court

BRUTAL ASSAULTS ON WIVES **Henry Baxter**, a boatman living at 27 Lower Duncan Street, Regent Road, was charged with committing a violent assault on his wife. Police-constable Pritchard said that about nine o'clock on Saturday night, he heard a disturbance in the prisoner's house. He heard screams of "Murder!", and on entering the house, saw prisoner in the act of striking his wife. Her mouth and nose were bleeding profusely. He took prisoner into custody and lodged him at the Town Hall. The charge was entered, and when prosecutrix was about to attach her mark to it, prisoner, in a threatening manner, said, "Touch that pen if you dare, and I'll let you see what I'll do when I come out". Prosecutrix, who had been brought to the court by a warrant, showed great reluctance to state the case. She admitted, however, that the prisoner gave her the black eye from which she was now suffering, and made her mouth bleed on Saturday night. Prisoner had no defence, and was committed to six months hard labour.

134 12 September 1874

ALLEGED MURDER BY A LIVERPOOL BOATMAN At the Wigan Borough Police Court, yesterday, (before Messrs W Rookcroft and R F Hopwood), **William Worthington**, a boatman, was brought up in custody charged with killing his wife by kicking her, on the 29th of August last. Prisoner and his wife, who lived in a boat which plied between Wigan and Liverpool on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, were going along Vauxhall Road, Liverpool, on the day in question, when the prisoner asked his wife for some money. She gave him a shilling, but as this evidently was not sufficient for him, he turned on her and kicked her severely on the side and lower part of the body until the blood flowed freely. Several of the people living in the neighbourhood came out of their houses when they heard the disturbance, and this appears to have stayed the prisoner's violence for a time, for the two returned to their boat, which lay at Boundary Bridge, Liverpool, As soon, however, as they reached the boat, prisoner again kicked deceased violently, breaking her stay bone with one of the blows and injuring her severely in the lower part of the body. Next morning, the prisoner again attacked his wife, this time with an iron poker, beating her over the arms and body in a frightful manner, and it was only after nearly killing her that he desisted. Deceased was afterwards taken to the house of a Mrs Duffey in Hopwood Street, Liverpool, but on Saturday last she was taken to Wigan. On Monday, Dr Stuart was called in, and he found the woman in a rapidly sinking condition. She had several ribs broken, and there were marks of severe blows all over the body. The doctor states that the body shows signs of previous brutal conduct, for it was bruised all over, and one of deceased's collar bones had been broken. The woman died on Thursday morning about half past four o'clock, and the prisoner was apprehended shortly afterwards. Deceased was about 35 years old, and was a widow with six children at the time prisoner married her, and she has had one child since the marriage. One of the deceased's daughters was present during the assault in the boat. On the application of the chief constable (Mr Simm), prisoner was remanded for a week.

135 12 September 1874

Salford Borough Police Court

ANOTHER BRUTAL ASSAULT ON A WIFE **James Ashton**, a boatman, living at 12 Everard

Street, Ordsal Lane, was charged on remand with committing a brutal assault on his wife. Prosecutrix said that on Tuesday night, prisoner came home about half past eight, partly intoxicated. He used foul language to her and swore that he would punish her. To get out of prisoner's way, she left the house, and stayed with a neighbour until shortly after eleven, She then returned and found that her husband had gone out. He came home shortly afterwards and, being afraid to go to bed, she took refuge in the cellar. He followed her, and discovering her by lighting a piece of paper, commenced a brutal attack upon her. After knocking her down, he kicked her in the ribs and on the face and head with his thick hob nailed boots. Police-constable Christie said that at midnight on Tuesday he heard cries of "murder" proceeding from the prisoner's house. On going into the cellar, he found the prosecutrix bleeding profusely from the head. She said, in the presence of the prisoner, that he had kicked her, and he said he did not deny it. Witness took prosecutrix to the Salford Hospital, and conveyed her husband to the Town Hall. **William Walker**, a boatman living in the prisoner's house, said that on Tuesday night, while in bed, he heard screams of "murder" in the cellar. He dressed himself and went to the cellar, where he saw the prisoner kicking his wife. He pulled prisoner away and persuaded him to go upstairs. PC Christie then came into the house. Mr W E Hodson, district surgeon at the Salford Hospital, said that the prosecutrix was brought there about one o'clock on Wednesday evening, suffering from the following injuries, all of which had been caused by kicking : two scalp wounds on the left side of the head – one an inch long and penetrating to the bone, and the other half an inch long ; bruises on the left cheek, right arm and right shoulder, and a broken rib on the right side. In committing prisoner for trial at the sessions, Sir J I Mantell said he had been guilty of as a gross case of brutality as he had ever heard of, and he was sure that such a ruffian deserved five years penal servitude, as much as anyone could do.

136 14 September 1874

IMPUDENT ELOPEMENT AT BIRKENHEAD A flatman named **Tucker**, was charged before the Birkenhead magistrates on Saturday with stealing some linen and other property belonging to William Davidson, with whom he lodged. The prisoner and the complainant's wife eloped on Thursday evening, and a day or two afterwards were found at a house in Liverpool, with several articles belonging to Davidson in their possession. The prisoner was remanded, bail being refused.

137 15 September 1874

THE ALLEGED WIFE MURDER BY A LIVERPOOL BOATMAN At the Liverpool Police Court yesterday, **William Worthington**, captain of the flat *Ada*, trading between Liverpool and Wigan, was brought up, charged with having caused the death of his wife **Ann** on the 29th August. The prisoner, it may be remembered, was originally brought up at Wigan, but as the offence had been committed in Liverpool, he was removed there. Mr Davies, prosecuting solicitor, stated that on the night in question, the prisoner and the deceased were walking along Vauxhall Road in the direction of the canal. They were quarrelling. They went into a yard near the canal, where the prisoner was seen to kick and strike his wife. She screamed, "Murder", but succeeded in getting to the flat. The prisoner also went on board and continued to ill treat her for some time. The woman was removed to a house in Ivy Street, and subsequently to Wigan, where she died on the 10th inst. Detective-constable Grubb stated that he apprehended the prisoner on the Saturday night at the Wigan Police station. In answer to the charge, he said, "Very well". He was brought to Liverpool and again charged with the crime at the Detective office, when he replied, "I am very sorry ; it is a bad job ; I would not have done it now for a thousand pounds". The inquest on the deceased is to be held today at Wigan, and the prisoner was remanded until Wednesday. In the meantime, the police authorities at Wigan are to be communicated with.

138 16 September 1874

THE ALLEGED WIFE MURDER BY A LIVERPOOL BOATMAN An adjourned inquiry into the death of **Ann Worthington**, who died at Wigan on Thursday the 10th inst from injuries inflicted upon her by her husband, **William Worthington**, at Liverpool on the 29th and 30th ult, was held

yesterday in the grand jury room at the Borough Courts, Wigan, before Mr C Appleton, deputy borough coroner and a jury of which Mr L Booth was foreman. A large number of witnesses were examined, their evidence bearing out in the main the facts already published. The jury returned a verdict of “Wilful murder” against William Worthington.

139 24 October 1874

At the Hanley Police Court on Tuesday, **John Hall**, boatman, was sent to prison for two months for having brutally assaulted his wife by striking her with the tiller of the boat, a most formidable weapon.

140 29 October 1874

INQUESTS IN MANCHESTER The following inquest was held yesterday by the city coroner, Mr E Herford. On the body of **Thomas Kenny**, a boatman, who died from the effects of exposure. It appeared from the evidence of **Elizabeth Simpson**, who resides at Fairfield Locks, that on Saturday last the deceased, while attempting to get on the roof of the cabin of a boat going towards Manchester, overbalanced himself and fell into the canal. He was rescued by the captain of the boat, a man named **Reed**, who on getting him out of the water, transferred him to an empty boat which was moored hard by, and left him there. The captain of the empty boat afterwards found the deceased on board, and had him removed to the canal bank, where he was subsequently found by a police-constable. He was almost insensible from the effects of cold and exposure. The officer had him removed to a neighbouring beerhouse, and subsequently to the Infirmary, where he died shortly after his admission. The jury, in returning a verdict of “Death from cold and exposure”, strongly censured the man Reed for not having the deceased placed in the hands of some persons who would have removed him to a proper place.

141 29 October 1874

Manchester City Sessions

Twelve months imprisonment : **Enoch Rawlinson**, 23, boatman, for stealing £7 13s belonging to his master.

Six months imprisonment and seven years police supervision : **Henry Robinson**, 34, boatman, for theft.

142 2 November 1874

Salford Borough Police Court

ALLEGED ASSAULT BY A BOATMAN **James Turner**, a boatman of no settled residence, was charged with violently assaulting another boatman named **Ralph Ashton**, residing at Clifton. On Thursday afternoon last, the two men were in charge of boats on the Bridgewater Canal at Agecroft when, while one was passing the other, the horse which was drawing Taylor's boat was accidentally thrown into the canal by the other boat. This led to a quarrel, in the course of which, according to the evidence for the prosecution, prisoner struck Ashton with an iron bar and fractured one of the bones of the right forearm. For the defence, witnesses were called to deny that the injury which the prosecutor had sustained was caused by the prisoner. Sir J I Mantell committed prisoner for trial at the assizes.

143 19 December 1874

Liverpool Assizes

WIFE MURDER – SENTENCE OF DEATH **William Worthington**, 33, a flatman, was indicted for the wilful murder of his wife. The evidence for the prosecution showed that on the 29th August, the prisoner's flat was in Liverpool, and about 11 o'clock at night, screams were heard from a yard in which flatmen were in the habit of putting up their horses. A woman, on looking out of her bedroom window, saw the prisoner, whom she had known a long time, kicking his wife, who was crouching in a corner against the wall. The deceased woman soon afterwards went out of the yard, and her face was noticed to be covered with blood, whereupon a policeman was sent for. An officer came up, but on learning that it was a “case of man and wife” he refused to interfere, in spite of the fact that the deceased's face was covered with blood. The prisoner and his wife then went to their

flat, and it was alleged by the prosecution that no sooner had they gone on board, than the prisoner again began to kick his wife in the cabin in a brutal manner. The same violence was repeated next morning with the addition of a blow upon the arm with a poker. Some days afterwards, the deceased died from the injuries she had received. There was not the slightest provocation for the prisoner's violence. The learned judge censured the officer somewhat severely for declining to take the prisoner into custody, and told him in future, when he saw signs of recent violence, it was his duty to take into custody the person charged with inflicting the violence. The medical evidence showed that death resulted from pleuropneumonia, aggravated by violence. The defence was that the prisoner had no intention of inflicting so severe injuries, but the jury convicted the prisoner, with a strong recommendation to mercy.

The Judge passed sentence of death in the usual way.

144 26 December 1874

LIFE ON CANAL BOATS – FATAL CASE OF BURNING An inquest was held at the Manchester City Coroner's Court on Wednesday on the body of **William Stringer**, a child aged two years, son of **Richard Stringer**, a boatman employed on a canal boat named *Annie* of Crippins. On Monday the 30th ult, the child was left alone in the cabin of the boat, which was lying in the Hulme Hall basin. Its mother was absent about 15 minutes, and on her return found that the deceased from some cause not explained had been burnt and taken to the Infirmary. A man who saw the child in the boat with its clothes on fire extinguished the flames. There was a stove in the cabin, and the child had been left in the charge of another child seven years old. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

145 29 February 1876

DROWNED IN THE BRIDGEWATER CANAL Yesterday the City Coroner held an inquest on the body of **John Gibbons**, aged 74, and late of Cawdor Street, Chester Road. The deceased, who was a boatman, left home on Tuesday night. He had seemed low spirited all day, and he was not heard of again until Sunday morning, when his body was found at Castlefield, in the screw of a tug boat employed on the Bridgewater Canal. One of the fan blades had caught the body, and when found it was frightfully mutilated. A post mortem examination which was made showed that death had resulted from drowning. A verdict to this effect was returned.

146 8 March 1876

Manchester City Sessions

TWO MONTHS **Samuel Smith**, 18, boatman, for stealing a watch, the property of James Richardson.

147 9 March 1876

Manchester City Sessions

THREE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT **Thomas Day**, 24, boatman, stealing rope, the property of John Pendlebury.

148 29 March 1876

Salford Borough Police Court

BRUTAL ASSAULT CASE **Robert Lawless**, 20, a canal boatman, was charged with unlawfully and maliciously wounding a young woman named **Elizabeth Doyle**, with whom he had been cohabiting, in a house in Wood Street, Deansgate. On Monday night, prisoner went to the house of the sister of the prosecutrix in Morris Street, Gorse Street, Salford, and asked prosecutrix, who was staying there, to go away with him. She refused, and said that she did not want to have anything more to do with him. He then pulled out a large clasp knife and, having opened the blade, stabbed her in the face, inflicting a wound which nearly penetrated her upper lip. Prisoner then went away, but was shortly afterwards apprehended. Prosecutrix was taken to the Salford Hospital and Dispensary and attended to by Mr W E Hudson. The magistrates committed prisoner for trial at the sessions.

149 13 April 1876

Salford Hundred Quarter Sessions

NINE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT : **Robert Lawless**, 21, boatman, for unlawfully wounding at Salford.

150 25 April 1876

Manchester City Sessions

THREE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT **Thomas Buckley**, 26, boatman, and James Taylor, 37, carter, for stealing, on the 28th of March, 72 ropes, the property of the Bridgewater Navigation Company Limited.

151 2 May 1876

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A BOATMAN An inquest was held at the City Coroner's Court yesterday on the body of **William Dean**, 53 years, and late of 6 Silk Street, Newton Heath. The deceased was a boatman and, according to the evidence of a female witness named Armstrong, it seemed that on Monday night about nine o'clock, the deceased was riding on a horse along Grimshaw Lane, and when at the corner of Douro Street, Oldham Road, the horse reared, and the deceased fell to the ground and fractured his spine. The accident was witnessed by an officer of the county constabulary and, as soon as possible, the deceased was removed home. He was afterwards conveyed to the Royal Infirmary, where he died on Friday from the injuries received. The deceased was under the influence of drink at the time of the accident. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

152 9 May 1876

SHOCKING STORY OF DRINK AND DEATH An inquest was held on the body of **Michael Lyons** aged 36, a boatman who lived at 5 Court, Fonteney Street. Evidence was given to show that he had been to gaol a score of times. He had been released from prison about three weeks ago, and drank constantly till Wednesday last, which brought on such exhaustion that he died the following Friday. His death was the result of excessive drinking. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with this evidence.

153 24 May 1876

SHOCKING BRUTALITY TO A WIFE Yesterday afternoon, a boatman named **Henry Ramsbottom** was charged by the Chorley justices with committing an aggravated assault upon his wife. On Monday night, the attention of Police-constable Birchall was called to a crowd assembled on the White Bear Bridge at Adlington. On crossing over the battlement, he saw, near to the canal basin, the prisoner striking his wife with his fist. He struck her about three times, and then knocked her down ; whilst she were on the ground he kicked her six or eight times, running at her to deliver each kick as if he was kicking a football. The crowd watching the proceedings called to the constable to make haste, and just as he got up, the prisoner kicked his wife the last time. An infant, which was lying on the ground, and which had been knocked out of its mother's arms during the disturbance, was picked up and carried into the house. The constable had great difficulty in apprehending prisoner, who struck and kicked several people before he could be seized, although he has only one arm. The Chairman (Mr Crosse) said it was the most brutal and inhuman case the bench had had before them, and sent the prisoner to gaol for three months, with hard labour.

154 24 May 1876

Salford Hundred Sessions

EIGHTEEN MONTHS IMPRISONMENT AND FOUR YEARS POLICE SUPERVISION **Edward Hanson**, 23, boatman, for stealing at Droylsden on the 13th May a shirt, the property of Robert W Hulme.

155 10 June 1876

FOUND DROWNED An inquest was held on Wednesday by Mr Herford, the City Coroner, on the body of **Francis Parker**, aged five years, son of **Christopher Parker**, a boatman of 48a Little

Bridgewater Street. On Tuesday, the deceased and his sister, a little girl, were playing on the deck of a boat the father works upon, and during the father's absence, the boy, by some means not explained, fell into the water. His body was found yesterday at the Prince's Bridge, Salford. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

156 29 June 1876

FOUND DROWNED An inquest was held on the body of **Alfred Leach**, aged 8 years. The evidence showed that some time ago, the boy's father (a boatman) was drowned, and since that time, the boy had lived with his aunt and uncle. For a short time, the aunt and uncle and deceased had lived in the flat *Midge*, belonging to Manchester, and on Monday night, the three came ashore. While in Deansgate, the boy asked his aunt if he could go away and play, and she consented. He turned up Gaythorn Street, and she lost sight of him. The body of the boy was afterwards found in the Bridgewater Canal near Hewitt Street. The deceased was fond of playing with water. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

157 13 July 1876

South Lancashire Assizes

CHILD MURDER AT BARTON UPON IRWELL Sarah Ann Jackson (20) was indicted for having, at Barton upon Irwell, on the 27th March last, murdered her newly born female child. Mr Addison prosecuted and Mr Fleming defended the prisoner.

The prisoner, who worked in a mill at Patricroft, lodged with a boatman and his wife named **Collins**, and Mrs Collins, prior to the date of the occurrence, constantly taxed her with being pregnant, but she denied it. On the day in question she left the mill about half past four, and on getting home complained of feeling ill. Shortly afterwards, she went out and was confined of a female child in an old closet. She then returned to the house, and after remaining there an hour or two, she again went out and took the body of the child away and threw it into the canal, which runs a short distance from where she was confined. Mr Addison stated that possibly the child might have died from neglect immediately after birth, when the prisoner, probably to avoid suspicion, returned to the house for some time. In that case, she would be guilty of manslaughter, or, at least if it could not be proved that the child had had an independent existence, of concealment of birth. The medical evidence was to the effect that the child had died very shortly after its birth. There were no marks of external violence. The lungs were fully expanded, but the doctor could not say that the child had had a totally independent existence.

The learned Judge said then that did away with the charge of murder.

The jury found the prisoner guilty of concealment of birth. Sentence deferred.

158 26 July 1876

Manchester County Police Court

ASSAULTING A MERCHANT **Henry Bradshaw**, a boatman in the employ of the Tyldesley Coal Company, was charged with assaulting Mr John Walker Preston of the firm of Messrs Preston and Co, silk merchants, Manchester. The complainant said he resided at Barton upon Irwell, and his premises adjoined the towing-path of the Bridgewater Canal. On the 15th inst, he and his two sons were walking along the towing-path, when they met a horse drawing two boats. A lad who was in charge of the horse drove it in front of them, and they had great difficulty in preventing themselves being thrown into the canal. Complainant stroked the horse with the object of getting it out of the way, and told the boy in charge of it that he deserved throwing into the canal. The defendant, who was steering the last boat, jumped on to the towing-path, and by a heavy blow in the face knocked witness down, and caused him great pain. A fine of £1 and costs was inflicted.

159 30 September 1876

A Rotherham boatman named **Kemp** has met with his death under very suspicious circumstances. Kemp and a man named Kirby were engaged to pump out a boat on the canal, and they finished at midnight. Kirby said he left Kemp asleep on deck, but a few hours afterwards his body was found in the water. Kirby has disappeared and the inquest, which was opened on Monday, has been

adjourned.

160 18 October 1876

GROSS PARENTAL NEGLECT NEAR WARRINGTON At the Warrington Board of Guardians yesterday, a case of shocking neglect of an infant by a mother came before the board. The relieving officer reported that a woman named **Birkenhead**, residing at Great Sankey, had brought to him a child, aged ten months, in a very emaciated condition. It was her son's child, and the mother, instead of attending to her family, spent the money given to her for their support in drink, and her husband, being a flatman, was in ignorance of her conduct. On Saturday night, when she visited the house, she found the children left to the mercy of the neighbours, and the mother in a public house, drunk. The infant was brought into the board room, and its emaciated appearance horrified the guardians. It appeared to be literally skin and bone, without a particle of flesh on its body. Dr Spinks said the child was literally dying of starvation. It was exceedingly weak, and had been grossly neglected. The grandmother promised to look after the infant for the present, and the relieving officer was ordered to prosecute the mother for her inhuman conduct.

161 19 October 1876

ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED An inquest was held by the City Coroner (Mr E Herford) yesterday, on the body of **Sarah Scruton**, aged 34 years, and late of 41 Rollinson Street, Butler Street, Oldham Road. The deceased was the wife of a boatman, and on Monday night they were taking an empty boat, on which they lived, along the Ashton Canal to the Piccadilly basin. While going under the bridge near Union Street, Ancoats, the husband heard a cry, and when the boat got clear from the bridge he found that his wife was missing. Her body was afterwards found in the canal. It was supposed that the deceased accidentally fell into the water, and the jury returned a verdict to this effect.

162 30 October 1876

SHOCKING NEGLECT OF A CHILD : THE MOTHER SENT TO PRISON At the Newton Petty sessions on Saturday, **John** and **Martha Ellen Birkenhead**, husband and wife, were charged that on the 14th October, and during the past three months, they neglected to provide adequate food for their daughter, aged ten months, whereby its health was endangered. Mr Sutton, clerk to the Warrington guardians, prosecuted, and both defendants were represented. The father of the child is a boatman on the canal, and is frequently away from home for a fortnight or three weeks at a time. The child was born in November 1875 and was a remarkably healthy one. About three months ago, the mother of the male defendant saw the child, and remonstrated with the mother for neglect, but was only abused for interfering. On the 14th of October, hearing the defendants quarrelling, she went into the house, when her son came downstairs with the child and said, "Take it mother, for it is starved". He had only returned that day after being away for a fortnight. She took the child to the workhouse, but it was not in a fit state to be brought into court. The mother was very dissipated, and had hardly ever been sober for the last three months. The child, one witness remarked, "was lost in dirt, and not fit for a Christian to handle". Henry Foy, relieving officer, said the child was brought to him, and he had it weighed. With its clothes, which were three quarters of a pound, its weight was only 5 1/2 lbs. He had weighed a pauper child between eight and nine months old, and it was 21 lbs, and another, eight months, weighed 20 lbs. The Bench characterised the case as the most painful one that had ever been before them. It was the duty of magistrates to protect children, and the female defendant would be sent to the House of Correction for the longest term of imprisonment they could inflict – namely six months. The husband was acquitted.

163 25 November 1876

Salford Borough Police Court

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Mark Wood**, a boatman, was charged with ill treating a horse. Police-constable Bagnall said that on Thursday, he saw the prisoner in charge of a horse which was drawing a boat on the river Irwell, at Mode Wheel. He got vexed at the horse, picked up a stone,

threw it at it, and afterwards kicked it in the breast and in the mouth, causing it to bleed profusely. A fine of 10s 6d was inflicted.

164 16 December 1876 Manchester City Sessions

TWELVE MONTHS : **James Whalley**, 22, boatman, for stealing, on the 25th November, one pair of trousers and other articles, the property of John Rea.

165 4 January 1877 Salford Borough Police Court

A BOATMAN STARVING A HORSE **Henry Barker**, boatman of 10 Nangreave Street, Salford, was charged by Inspectors Williamson and Chambers of the Manchester and Salford Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, with ill treating a horse by neglecting to supply it with food. Mr W Cobbett appeared to prosecute on behalf of the society. The defendant hired the horse from Mr Thomas Wood, horse dealer, Chapel Street, on the 22nd September. On the 6th December, from something which came to the knowledge of the owner, a stable in Cow Lane, Oldfield Road, belonging to Mr William Walmsley, hay and straw dealer, was visited by Inspector Williamson and Mr Wood's outdoor clerk, and the horse was found there in a very emaciated condition, eating its own litter. It was ascertained that the only food with which defendant had supplied it during the three previous days had been a small quantity of oats and "chop". Defendant was fined £1 and costs.

166 16 February 1877 Salford Borough Police Court

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE **Mary Ann Woods**, 32, a married woman, 1 Flax Street, Adelphi, was charged with attempting to drown her female child, aged 4 months, and with attempting to drown herself. **Peter Woods**, a boatman in the employ of the Bridgewater Navigation Company, living at Newfield, Lymm, Cheshire, said that about two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon he was on board a boat on the river Irwell, near Prince's Bridge, Salford, when his attention was called to the prisoner, who was standing in the river holding a child in her hands under the water. Witness could reach her from the towing-path, and he took the child, which was nearly dead, from her, giving it to his wife, who was also on the boat. The child was insensible, but after it had been undressed and rubbed, and brandy and water administered, it recovered consciousness. He also pulled the prisoner out of the water. Detective Quick said he apprehended the prisoner on Wednesday and preferred the above charges against her. She made no reply. Prisoner was committed for trial at the assizes.

167 24 February 1877 Salford Hundred Sessions

SENTENCES Twelve months imprisonment : **Edward Mervins**, 19, boatman, theft at Salford.

168 3 March 1877 Manchester City Sessions

SENTENCES Eight months imprisonment : **George Ashley**, 30, boatman, stealing, on 21st January, five pieces of calico, the property of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company.

169 15 March 1877 Liverpool Spring Assizes

UNLAWFULLY WOUNDING **Joseph Glover**, 20, a flatman, was found guilty of unlawfully wounding Thomas Halsall on the night of 29th December last at Liverpool. He was sentenced to four months imprisonment with hard labour.

170 17 March 1877 Liverpool Assizes

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER AGAINST A MOTHER **Martha Ellen Birkenhead**, 28, housekeeper, was indicted for having, at Little Sankey on the 28th October last, feloniously caused the death of her child, Margaret Birkenhead. Mr Watson and Mr Preston prosecuted, and the prisoner was defended by Dr Commons. The case had been remanded from the winter assizes. The

prisoner was then suffering a term of six months hard labour for having neglected the deceased (who subsequently died) and that term was not yet expired. At the last assizes, the jury were unable to agree to a verdict. She was now brought up for trial under a writ of *habeas corpus*. From the case for the prosecution, it appeared that the prisoner was the wife of a flatman, living at Little Sankey, near Warrington. The allegation was that she was a very drunken woman, and systematically neglected and starved the deceased, who was only ten months old. Evidence was brought forward to show that the prisoner left the child for days together while she was on a drinking spree, and that the neighbours on those occasions sometimes looked after the unfortunate little one. At length, death put an end to its misery on the 28th of October. The prisoner had quite sufficient means to provide nourishing food for the deceased. The medical testimony was to the effect that the child was naturally healthy, and that it died from absolute starvation. The prisoner was tried for the offence at the last assizes, but the jury were unable to agree to a verdict. For the defence, witnesses were called to prove that the prisoner's husband was a very drunken man, and did not supply means for the support of the family. They also stated that the prisoner was generally sober. The prisoner was found guilty, but recommended to mercy on the ground that she was now suffering imprisonment for the neglect, and that she had taken care of her other children. His Lordship said he thought the magistrates had already punished the prisoner for her offence, and he did not think he should do right if he interfered with their discretion. He would, therefore, order the prisoner's discharge at the expiration of the term of imprisonment she was now undergoing, namely on the 28th April. He advised the prisoner to give up drink, remarking that although over indulgence was a curse in men, it was a far greater curse in women.

171 6 April 1877

BODY FOUND IN THE CANAL Yesterday morning about six o'clock, a boatman named **Holdridge** of Crown Street, Hulme, saw the body of a man in the canal, Oxford Street, Manchester. With the assistance of Police-constable Coope, the body was taken from the water and conveyed to the public mortuary, Oldham Road. The body is that of a young man, apparently about 25 years of age, five feet four or five in height, with dark hair cut short, no whiskers, and attired in a blue pilot coat.

172 21 April 1877

SUSPECTED MURDER OF A CANAL BOATMAN The Coroner for Cheshire on Wednesday investigated a case in which foul play is suggested at Waverton, near Chester. A canal boatman named **Morris** was walking alongside his boat, between Beeston and Chester, early on Monday morning, when he saw another boatman, named **Charles Moston**, of Wolverhampton, lying on the bank with his head and shoulders dreadfully bruised and battered. Moston was apparently dying. He shook him and shouted to him. Moston merely opened his eyes and groaned. He was then carried on board Morris's boat, and was having his lips moistened with brandy when he expired. Dr Watson was called, and he gave it as his opinion that deceased's neck had been dislocated or fractured. Moston was engaged on board the *Usk*, **Captain Probert**, which left Beeston for Chester the previous night. When the boat was moving off, Morris, who discovered him as described, saw Moston jump on board quite sober. The Coroner said the case was very suspicious, ordered the arrest of Captain Probert, and adjourned the inquest in order to allow of a *post mortem* examination.

173 5 May 1877

SINGULAR CASE OF ELOPEMENT A Gainsborough boatman named **Jackson** applied for a warrant on Wednesday against George Stainland, a youth 18 years of age, for abduction. It appears that on Saturday last, during the absence of her father, **Emma Jackson**, the applicant's daughter, was induced to leave home with Stainland. The pair were subsequently traced to Sheffield. It transpired, however, that the girl was over 16 years of age, so that the application of her father could not be entertained.

174 15 June 1877

GALLANT RESCUE FROM DROWNING About two o'clock yesterday afternoon, a child three years of age named Thomas Henry Orwin, whose parents reside in Garden Wall Street, Ordsall Lane, Salford, was playing with other children on the bank of the river, near Messrs Worrall's works, when he fell into the water. **Mark Addy**, the boatman, who resides near, was attracted to the spot by the cries of the children, and without divesting himself of any of his clothing, jumped into the river and rescued the child, to whom the usual remedies were applied, and in half an hour he was fully restored. This increases the number of lives saved by Addy to thirty.

175 23 June 1877

NARROW ESCAPE OF THREE WORKMEN Yesterday afternoon, three men, who are employed by the Manchester Corporation, had a narrow escape from being drowned in the river Irwell. They were engaged in repairing the underground sewer near Blackfriars Bridge when, in consequence of a heavy shower of rain, a large quantity of water suddenly came down the sewer. The three men were washed into the river. **Richard Addy**, boatman, happened to be near the place at the time, and he quickly went to the assistance of the men, and succeeded in rescuing them. After a short rest, the men did not appear much the worse for their immersion.

176 29 June 1877

NARROW ESCAPE William Henry Everton, aged 7 years, son of David Everton of Derwent Street, Ordsall Lane, narrowly escaped being drowned on the afternoon of the 26th inst. While playing on the banks of the river Irwell near Wodin Street, he fell into the water and was carried some distance by the current. **Mark Addy**, boatman, who has already saved over 30 persons from drowning, was near at the time, and, plunging into the river, succeeded in rescuing Everton.

177 18 July 1877

BOATMAN AND HIS SON DROWNED – SAD CASE Mr Gilbertson, coroner, held an inquest at the Lane End's Hotel, Ashton, near Preston, yesterday, over the bodies of **Robert Kay**, aged 36, and his son **Charles Kay**, who were both drowned on Monday afternoon in the Lancaster and Preston Canal, under lamentable circumstances. Robert Kay, it appears, was the owner of a canal boat, and on Monday afternoon he left Preston with his boat, laden with coals, and part of his family were on board with him. Shortly before four o'clock and when in the township of Cottam, his son Charles, aged about 4 years, was playing along the side of the boat, when he accidentally fell into the water. The father at once rushed to the spot, threw himself into the canal, and although he was not able to swim, he succeeded in raising his son above the water, but the boat passing along caused both to sink, and they were drowned. This sad sight was witnessed by two of the daughters of deceased, and they at once got off the boat and ran for assistance. In about twenty minutes, the bodies were taken out of the water and placed in the boat. A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned.

178 21 July 1877

City Police Court

CAPTURE OF A BURGLAR **Samuel Bailey**, a canal boatman, was charged before Mr J Galloway and Mr Jardine, with committing a burglary at the Commercial Inn, a beerhouse in Egerton Street, Hulme. About half past one yesterday morning, Police-constable Bowerman of the D division was passing the inn, when he saw a light burning in one of the rooms downstairs. Looking through the keyhole, he saw the prisoner, evidently in the act of committing a robbery. He called the assistance of Constable James, who stood at the back door of the house, while he aroused the inmates. The prisoner, finding he was discovered, endeavoured to escape by getting over the yard wall, but dropped into the arms of James. It was then found that he had stolen a small sum of money and a quantity of tobacco. Prisoner was committed for trial at Liverpool assizes.

179 4 August 1877

PUSHING A MAN INTO A CANAL On Tuesday at the Daresbury Petty Sessions, a flatman

named **William Hampton** was charged with pushing a young man named **George Booth** of Barnton into the Bridgewater Canal at Grappenhall on Monday afternoon. The complainant said he worked on the same boat as the defendant. On the previous afternoon, he went into the cabin to put coal on the fire, and while he was doing that, the boat ran aground and got stopped. The defendant became annoyed, and said to him, "Don't you deserve chucking in the cut for that?" Complainant said that he had done nothing wrong, whereupon the defendant seized him and "chucked him overboard". Fortunately the complainant could swim, and he swam across the canal and got out. Defendant : I had had a little beer, and it was through him running the boat aground. The Chairman of the Bench : Is it your usual custom to knock a man overboard? Defendant : Oh no, sir, but I was aggravated. Mr Dentith, a gentleman who was close by at the time, said he saw the boy in the canal swimming from the boat to the towing-path. The defendant threw a boat shaft at him. Alderman Shepherd : For the purpose of saving him or pushing him down? Witness : I cannot say. Defendant threatened to knock him in again when he got out. The Chairman : Was the defendant sober? Witness : He had had drink, but he knew what he was doing. The bench inflicted a penalty of £1 and costs, altogether £1 16s 2d, or a months imprisonment.

180 4 August 1877

SHOOTING AFFAIR AT SALFORD Yesterday morning, information was conveyed to the police at Patricroft that a boatman named **James Hamlett** had shot his wife. Two constables went after the flat on which it was reported that the affair had occurred, and found it at Barton. Hamlett was apprehended and his wife, whose face was bleeding, was taken to the Salford Hospital. The boatman stated that while he was shooting at a bird, his wife left the cabin, and the shot accidentally struck her. Further inquiries were afterwards made, and the story of Hamlett appearing to be true, he was liberated by the police.

181 7 August 1877

Manchester City Sessions

The following sentences were also passed during the day :-

Eight years penal servitude : **Patrick Gaff**, 39, boatman, for stealing a quantity of lead, the property of James M Beckett.

Twelve months imprisonment : **James Hilton**, 32, boatman, for complicity in a theft of lead belonging to James M Beckett.

182 21 August 1877

A CANAL BOATMAN FOUND DROWNED Yesterday, Mr E Herford, the Manchester City Coroner, held an inquest on the body of **Joseph Smith**, aged 32 years, a canal boatman, late of 2 Collier's Row, Gaythorn, who was found drowned in the Rochdale Canal early on Friday morning. A statement having been made to the effect that deceased had been pitched into the canal by a fellow workman, Detective-inspector Jones, on behalf of the police, made inquiries into the matter. There was no evidence, however, to lead to any other belief than that he had accidentally fallen into the water, and the jury therefore returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

183 11 September 1877

A BOATMAN DROWNED IN MANCHESTER The Manchester City Coroner (Mr E Herford) held an inquest yesterday on the body of **Richard Jacksworth**, aged 25 years, a boatman in the employ of the Shropshire Union Canal Company on the boat *Wren*. On Friday night, deceased was with the boat at Castlefield, and was seen pushing it across the canal with a boat hook. Shortly afterwards, he was missed, and on search being made, his dead body was found in the water. The sharp end of the boat hook was seen sticking in some woodwork at the side of the canal, and it is supposed that in endeavouring to unfasten it, the deceased fell from the boat and was drowned. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

184 17 October 1877

DRINKING POISON IN MISTAKE FOR WHISKY The Chester coroner (Mr Tatlock) held an inquest on Monday touching the death of a woman named **Alice Ann Ainsworth**, the wife of a tavern keeper and boatman, living in the Groves, Chester, who died from poison on Saturday night. The deceased was given to whisky drinking, and her husband stated that she generally took half a pint of that spirit daily. On Saturday evening, she had been working hard, and retired to rest about seven o'clock, saying she was tired. Before going, she was seen to take a drink of something on the stairs, and the tumbler out of which she drank being afterwards fetched down by her son, it was noticed that it smelled very strongly. Her husband at once ran upstairs, found his wife in great pain and speechless, and immediately went for a doctor. A bottle containing carbolic acid was found on the sill of a little window on the stairs, which had been used for disinfecting the house, and as the contents of the woman's stomach, as well as the tumbler, smelt strongly of that poison, there was no doubt she drank some of it in the dark in mistake for whisky. The jury returned a verdict to that effect.

185 30 October 1877

STRANGE CHARGE OF MURDER AT RUNCORN Yesterday, at the Runcorn Police Court, before the Rev E A P Campbell, **John Hughes**, a boatman, was charged with having, on the 26th inst at Runcorn, unlawfully killed and murdered one Nicholas Martin Stevens, a sailor of Cornwall. From the evidence, it appeared that about eleven o'clock on the night in question, the deceased and a man named James Dart and some other sailors were going down by the locks to their vessel, which was lying in the docks at Runcorn, when they heard a noise and the screams of a woman crying, "Murder". On proceeding to the place from where the sounds came, they saw the prisoner and his wife having a dispute. Deceased said to him, "You would not strike a woman, would you?" Prisoner's wife said, "He would not strike a man". Prisoner replied that he would strike five men. The prisoner and his wife were on their flat at the time, which was in the lock. The prisoner again attacked his wife, knocked her down, and fell upon her. Deceased then jumped on board and tried to prevent the prisoner beating his wife. Several of the deceased's friends said to a sailor named James Dart, "You had better go on board, or else they will round on Nicky", and he did so, and got hold of the deceased, who was scuffling with the prisoner, by the arm, and tried to get him away. The prisoner came up to them, and addressing the deceased, said, "I'll serve you the same". The prisoner then struck the deceased in the face and knocked both men overboard into the lock. Dart swam as well as he could in the lock and sank twice, and when he was got out he was almost drowned. About 10 minutes afterwards, the deceased was got out, quite stiff, and life was extinct. One of the sailors, named Morris, then went up to the prisoner, and addressing him, said, "You have done a nice thing now. You have drowned one man and nearly drowned two". He replied, "I don't care a ---- if both of them were drowned". The prisoner did not try to save the deceased in the least. On Saturday morning, he was apprehended by Police-constable Arden, and on being taken to the place where the body of the deceased lay on a board, and told that he was charged with causing his death, he struck the board with great violence with his fist and declared that he could have done for a dozen such men. After hearing the evidence of several witnesses, Dr McDougall was called, and said he examined the body of the deceased externally on Saturday. He found the left eyebrow swollen and discoloured. There was a slight scratch on the right cheek. There were no other marks of violence on the body. Some frothy mucus or liquid was escaping from the mouth and nostrils mixed with blood. In his opinion, drowning was the cause of death. Further evidence having been heard, the prisoner was committed for trial at the Chester assizes (which commence this morning) on the charge of murder.

186 2 November 1877

Chester Winter Assizes

MANSLAUGHTER AT RUNCORN **John Hughes**, 28, flatman, was indicted for the manslaughter of Nicholas Martin Stevens, a Cornish sailor, at Runcorn on the 26th October. Stevens, the deceased, was a mate on the schooner *Annie*, and the prisoner an ordinary hand on

board the *Dee*, both of which were lying at Runcorn. Stevens had been in the town and was returning home about half past 10 o'clock at night, a little in drink, when a row between the prisoner and his wife, in which the former was kicking and beating the latter in the most brutal manner, induced the deceased and a mate to interfere, when the prisoner pitched into them, and knocked them both over the side of the boat *Dee* into the water, and deceased was drowned. It was contended by counsel for the defence that the death of Stevens resulted from the purest accident ; a fight took place on a pitch dark night, on board a little boat, and it was not an extraordinary, though a regrettable, circumstance, that one should fall over the side and be drowned. The jury returned a verdict of Guilty, and the prisoner was sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour.

187 16 November 1877

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A BOATMAN Yesterday morning, at an early hour, a boatman named **James Harpur** was drowned in the Peak Forest Canal at Marple. The poor fellow, who belonged to one of the Rivington boats, was going to fetch his horse from the stables, which are near Mr Griffith's stables and close to the canal lock. The deceased was a little near sighted, and the morning being very dark, he missed his way and fell into the lock. His mate saw the painful accident, and heard the shrieks of the drowning man, but was unable to save him. He, however, did the best he could ; called for assistance, and let the water off, and after some little search the body was recovered, but life was extinct.

188 8 December 1877

ROBBERY FROM A RAILWAY GOODS WAREHOUSE At the Manchester City Police Court on Wednesday, **John Hadfield** alias **Robert Fitton**, a boatman living at Newton Heath, was charged before Mr T Daley with breaking and entering the warehouse of the London and North Western Railway Company, Ducie Road, London Road, and stealing twelve sacks of corn of the value of £10. Mr J E (?) prosecuted, and Mr F H Marshall appeared for the prisoner. The robbery was committed between the night of Saturday the 7th and the morning of Sunday the 8th July last, and on the Sunday morning, the prisoner was seen by a watchman in the employ of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway sweeping up corn on a bridge over the Rochdale Canal. It was afterwards found that he and another man, who has since been convicted of felony at Liverpool and sentenced to nine months imprisonment, had loaded twelve sacks of corn into a boat on the canal and were about to take it away. The prisoner made his escape, and was not heard of again until the beginning of the present week, when he was arrested by Constable S??bury of the county constabulary. Mr Marshall submitted that the evidence had not established a case against the prisoner. The magistrates took a different view, and committed the prisoner for trial at the sessions.

189 14 January 1878

PRESENTATION TO MARK ADDY On Saturday evening, the Salford Town Hall was crowded to its utmost limits by an eager throng anxious to do honour to the well known Salford boatman and oarsman, who has rendered himself famous by saving, at the imminent risk of his life, many persons from drowning in the murky waters of the Irwell, and to witness a public presentation to him in recognition of his services. There were a great many persons turned away from the doors, and a good number of ladies were present. The Mayor of Salford (Alderman Walmsley) occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by Mr W T Charley, MP, Colonel O O Walker MP, Mr W W Goulden, Alderman Robinson, Mr J H Brown, Mr J F Middlehurst, Mr C Johnson, Mr R Dearden, Mr A L Dickins, Mr Mottram, Mr Bonsor, and Rev W Doyle, the Rev G W Petherick, and a large number of other gentlemen.

The Mayor, in opening the proceedings, said he was expressing his own sentiments and the sentiments of every member of the Corporation when he said that it was one of the most grateful and one of the highest privileges that could come to those who hold office when they were called upon to show their appreciation of a noble deed, a brave act, or honourable work. It was a very brave and honourable thing to stand in the battle's front in the face of one's country's foe ; it was an

equally brave and honourable thing to plunge into the flood at the risk of one's own life to save the life of one's fellow countryman. (Applause) During the two years of his mayoralty, he had occupied the chair on no prouder occasion than the present, and had never felt prouder of his right hand man than he did that night.

Mr G F Hall then read the report of the committee, which stated that the first meeting in connection with the testimonial was held on the 11th September last, and that the response of the public to the appeal for subscriptions were such that the committee were enabled to present to Mark Addy the sum of two hundred guineas and an illuminated address. They had also, after paying all expenses, been able to furnish Addy's gold medal with two gold bars, inscribed with the words "Addy's committee". The committee also intended to petition the Prime Minister for the presentation of the Albert Medal to Mark Addy, and the information they had obtained as to Addy's heroic deeds was sufficient to inspire them with very sanguine hopes of immediate success. (Applause)

Mr W W Goulden moved the adoption of the report, and expressed his ardent admiration of the character and bravery of Mark Addy. (Applause) He felt proud of him as a citizen and townsman, and he was sure that the feeling he had was the feeling of every man and woman present. (Cheers)

The Rev W Doyle seconded the motion, remarking that it added not a little to the heroic character and bravery of Mark Addy that he had had the courage to venture himself not only into the water but into water of such an unsavoury kind as that of the Irwell. He was there that night to show his respect for the noble services done by Addy, who had set a splendid example of heroic devotion in the cause of life. His services were best measured by the fact that life was the highest and most precious gift of all. "Skin for skin, all that a man hath, that will he give for his life"; and the man, who at sea, or in the river, or on the tented field, strove to save life, did the highest and noblest of all deeds. (Applause)

The motion was then put and carried.

Mr T Charley MP, who was received with applause, then rose to make the presentation. He said that the motto of the Royal Humane Society, with regard to a person who had been nearly drowned, was *Lateat scintilla forsan* – a little spark might perhaps be hid, and the saving of the little spark had been the noble mission of Mark Addy's life. (Applause) Mark Addy had been instrumental in saving 37 lives – hear, hear – and he had frequently risked his life when he had not been successful in saving life. But the view taken by the Royal Humane Society was this, that it mattered not what might be the result, the only question they asked was, "What has been the gallantry displayed?" (Hear, hear and applause) It was a sorrowful fact that two of those whom Mark Addy rescued were women who were bent upon self destruction. One of the women was so sternly bent upon it that she endeavoured to upset the boat in which Mark Addy had placed her, and to consign him and herself to a watery grave. Mark Addy, however, appreciated better than she did the value of her life, and placed her in safety on the bank, and he was sure the woman lived to return thanks for the service rendered to her. (Hear, hear) One of the medals which Addy wore at the present moment was for rescuing one of these two women. (Hear, hear) But Mark Addy had been successful in rescuing the lives of persons other than those who contemplated self destruction – the lives of many who were in the heyday of life and spirits. Many of those whom he rescued were children. Mark Addy had been instrumental in restoring children to the loving arms of their parents ; he had been instrumental in restoring parents to the loving arms of their children ; he had restored husbands to wives, and wives to their husbands, and friends to friends. (Applause) That had been the noble mission of Mark Addy's life. (Applause) Now he (Mr Charley) knew what it was to save life in the Thames for he had done it himself (applause) without the slightest hope or expectation of any recognition. It was not so dangerous a thing to save life in the river Thames if a man had a pretty fair knowledge of the art of swimming, and if he saw a person in danger of drowning in the Thames he should not hesitate for a single moment to leap in and save that person. (Applause) But it was a totally different thing to save life in the river Irwell. (Laughter) He believed he should think twice before he jumped into the Irwell. (Laughter) There was a person who died within twenty four hours after immersion in the "savoury" river. There were three dangers which a person ran who plunged into the river Irwell to save life. In the first place, there was the danger of being suffocated by the mud, and Mark Addy

had told him that when he had plunged into the river when it was shallow, he had sometimes sunk into the mud up to his waist. There was certainly considerable danger involved in that on a very dark night with nobody by except the drowning person. In the second place, there was the danger of being choked by the filth - (laughter) – which floated down what had been termed by a London paper “an open sewer”. (Laughter) Then there was the still greater danger, if he survived the first two, of being poisoned by the chemical compounds which flowed from the manufactories on the banks of the river. Mark Addy had devoted himself to the noblest of all avocations – that of saving life, and there was no nobler thing that one man could offer to another than life for a life. (Cheers) Mr Charley then called upon the secretary to read the address, which had been beautifully illuminated on vellum by Mr J Needham of 31 Booth Street, Manchester, and handsomely framed and mounted by Mr J R Goring of Radnor Street. The address having been read, Mr Charley presented it, together with a prettily worked purse containing two hundred guineas to Mark Addy, saying, “I think I cannot better gather up the wishes and feelings of the meeting than by saying God bless you for your efforts on behalf of humanity in the past, and give you strength and courage to continue in the future”. (Cheers)

Mr Addy, who was received with loud cheers, briefly returned thanks.

After a short address from the Rev G W Petherick, who held up Mark Addy as an example to be imitated in everyday life,

Mr James Smith, on behalf of the Humane Society for the Hundred of Salford, presented Mark Addy with the following address - “This is to certify that the Humane Society for the Hundred of Salford having taken into consideration the remarkable and conspicuous bravery and daring displayed by Mark Addy, of Salford, in rescuing many persons from drowning during the past twenty years, and having already marked its sense of his services by presenting him with the society's bronze medal, and likewise with its silver medal, and as several lives have more recently been saved by him, it is resolved that the gold medal, the highest award of the society, be presented to him”. (Cheers)

On the motion of Mr W Hindshaw, seconded by Mr W Foden, it was resolved, “that the best thanks of this meeting be and are hereby tendered to Mr W T Charley and Colonel Walker, the borough members, for the interest they have taken in this movement, as manifested by their presence tonight, and for the valuable information and assistance they have rendered with such courtesy and promptness to the Mark Addy Committee, in furtherance of their efforts to obtain the Albert and Royal Society's medals”.

Colonel Walker MP, who was received with cheers, responded. He said it was an honour for Salford to know that she had a man who was worthy of everyone's good will, and who possessed that good will. (Applause) Anyone who had taken an interest in the gallant deeds that had been performed by Mr Addy could only be surprised at their extraordinary number. But he possessed not only the courage and the devotion that led him to risk his life in order that he might rescue his fellow creatures, but he possessed in a most remarkable degree the most valuable knowledge of how to save life when the spark of life was well nigh gone out – (applause) – and they all trusted that the recognition accorded to him would not only encourage him to still greater deeds, but if possible encourage him to teach the lessons of life saving to his neighbours and friends – to teach them not only the mode by which people were rescued from the water, but what was perhaps of still more importance, the mode by which he restored that failing and almost lost animation. (Applause)

A vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding terminated the proceedings.

190 18 February 1878

ASSAULT IN A BOAT On Saturday morning at the Manchester County Police Court, **Benjamin Wood**, boatman, was charged, before Mr J W McClure and Mr C I Clare, with unlawfully wounding his wife, **Elizabeth Wood**. On Wednesday, the prisoner and his wife, who were both under the influence of liquor, were in a boat at Miles Platting. The prosecutrix complained of being unwell, and while she was lying on the deck, the prisoner took hold of her ears and knocked her head against the floor. She received a severe wound on the head, and was rendered insensible.

Some time afterwards, when she was leaving the boat, he kicked her. Wood was committed for trial at the quarter sessions.

191 21 February 1878

Manchester City Sessions

SENTENCES Twelve months imprisonment : **Walter Barker**, a boatman, for stealing a pair of trousers and a pair of boots.

192 25 February 1878

Manchester City Sessions

John Hoare, 18, boatman and **Patrick Conway**, 16, labourer, were indicted for inflicting grievous bodily harm on **Thomas Bowden**, but as the prosecutor was unable to appear, lying at the Infirmary in a very precarious state, the prisoners were committed to the next Manchester assizes.

193 26 February 1878

Salford Intermediate Sessions

SENTENCES Fifteen months imprisonment : **Benjamin Wood**, 46, boatman, for unlawfully wounding **Elizabeth Wood**, his wife, at Newton on February 13th.

194 30 March 1878

ATTEMPTED HOUSEBREAKING AT BRADFORD At the Manchester County Police Court on Tuesday, **Roger Miller**, boatman, **Miles Platting**, and **J Turkey**, boatman of no fixed residence, were charged before Sir J I Mantell with being on the premises of **Lawrence Lee**, butcher, **Phillips Park Road**, **Bradford-cum-Beswick**, with intent to commit a felony. Mr Crofton prosecuted. On the evening of the 18th instant, the prisoners and another man were observed to jump out of prosecutor's yard and to run away in a suspicious manner. The prisoners were chased and captured, and afterwards it was found that the grid over the cellar window of the shop had been broken, showing that the prisoners had been attempting to effect an entrance into the house. The prisoners were committed for trial at the sessions.

195 2 April 1878

Chester Spring Assizes

SURPRISING VERDICT **Thomas Bragg**, (35?), boatman, **Runcorn**, was indicted for breaking into the house of **Charles Henry Scott** at **Altrincham** on the 12th March, and stealing therefrom a writing desk, a quantity of nuts &c. Mr Ignatius Williams prosecuted, and the prisoner was undefended. On the night of the 11th March, the prosecutor's family had retired to rest, and a little before two in the morning, a servant in Mr Scott's employ was awakened by hearing a noise in her bedroom. She saw a man, whom she subsequently identified as the prisoner, standing by her bed, and doing something with a purse which she had left in her dress pocket when she went to bed. She shouted, and the prisoner decamped. A neighbour was aroused, and he chased the prisoner, whom he "collared" after a long run. The prisoner, however, managed to escape, and the pursuer again chased him, catching him a second time. Another struggle ensued, the end of which was that the prisoner, after kicking his captor and falling through a hedge into a ditch, got away. In consequence of the neighbour having lost his slippers, and thorns rubbing into his feet, he was obliged to give up the pursuit. Shortly afterwards, however, the prisoner was discovered by a policeman hiding in a shrubbery. On the prisoner was found the stolen property.

The prisoner, in his defence, denied that he had committed the burglary, and accounted for his presence in the neighbourhood by saying that he had been drinking and wandering about.

The jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty".

196 22 April 1878

After the 30th of June in the present year, a class of the population which has, in several respects, been hitherto virtually outlawed, will commence to share privileges which ought to be enjoyed by the whole community. It is a lamentable fact that, until very recently, no sufficient effort had been made by the Legislature so to provide for the special circumstances of the class to which we refer, as to bring its numbers within the provisions of several Acts which have, in modern times, been

passed for the improvement of the morals or of the physical health of society. That class consists of canal boatmen and those who constitute what may be described as their floating households. It is, of course, not difficult to account for the apparent anomaly involved in the peculiar exception of these people from certain legal obligations. Their mode of life is such as to place them beyond the operation of all, or nearly all, of the official machinery on which the legislature is accustomed to rely for the purpose of enforcing Acts of Parliament in the interests of morality or sanitary improvement. To the rate collector, keen as he is to watch the comings and goings of sojourners in his district, the canal boat, no matter how large the family of which it forms the only recognised – we can scarcely say settled – abode has never formed an object of professional interest. Poor law officials have, no doubt, been too often called upon to make some inquiries with reference to the local habitation, as well as the name of certain dwellers in canal boats ; but that necessity has arisen only in consequence of the not altogether disinterested anxiety of some parish or union to show that to another district belonged the right to claim a special property in the person of some amphibious being, who, for one cause or another, had been compelled to drop by the canal side, and to avail himself of the inhospitable shelter of the nearest workhouse. Even if the principle of household suffrage were extended to the county electors, there is no reason to suppose that the canal boatman would, by the provisions of the Act, be entitled to present himself at the polling booth and record his vote. Nay, so necessary is it – even under a system of manhood suffrage – to define, in some way or another, the persons who are entitled to the exercise of the franchise, that it would not be at all surprising if that necessity interfered with the registration of a man who could not, with propriety, be said to belong to any particular parish or even county. Some compensations, no doubt, there have been for these deprivations. The canal boatman has never known what it is to endure the unpleasantness of having either his gas or his water cut off in consequence of having failed to pay the bill for the previous quarter. We have never heard of a case in which his furniture has been seized for arrears of rent. And, if he has never enjoyed any of the privileges of a free and independent elector, he has never, on the other hand, had to undergo the ordeal of being waited on by half a dozen canvassers in succession, each urging upon him the claims to his support possessed by a candidate, for whose opponent he has already promised to vote after the application of at least an equal amount of moral suasion.

The canal boatman therefore has, virtually, been an outlaw, in the sense of being neither protected by, nor subject to, some very important statutes which materially affect almost every other member of the community. Even the vagrant or “tramp” has been compelled to pay a greater amount of attention to the practical side of the study of sanitary law, since he is compelled, for the most part, to sleep in common lodging houses, registered and inspected, from time to time, by the local authorities. But there can be no question of the necessity of putting an end to the equivocal privileges thus enjoyed by canal boatmen. The peculiar locomotive conditions under which his life is passed, while they constitute an explanation of the fact of that exemption existing, form, at the same time, a very strong reason for abolishing it at the earliest convenient date. Unless all the scientific beliefs on which so much of our modern sanitary legislation is based are altogether unworthy of credit, it is certain that a canal boat, which serves as a habitation for several human beings, and for proper attention to cleanliness in which no provision is made by law, is much more likely to become the scene of an outbreak of infectious disease than is a house under the eye of the officer of health and his assistants. This would be the case, even if all other elements in the two cases were equal each to each. That they are very far from being so it is hardly necessary to remark. The poorest hut ashore will be a curiosity if it does not give more space – and consequently more air to breathe – to the inmates than do the best of the boats engaged in what is somewhat quaintly called our inland navigation. And when infectious disease does break out in the living cabin of a canal boat, it may reasonably be calculated that the danger to the community at large is, in such a case, much increased by the fact that its fatal germs are conveyed, with the boat, frequently for a long distance, and through districts where the population is dangerously dense. It may easily be supposed that the inhabitants of canal boats, as a rule, do not show very great alacrity in calling in medical aid, and even if they were always ready to do so when it is necessary, it does not always

happen that such aid is available. It is wisely provided, therefore, in the Canal Boats Act, which, as we have intimated, comes into operation on the 30th of June in the present year, that, in case of serious illness occurring on board a boat, a master thereof is required to notify that fact to the sanitary authority of the district through which the boat happens, at the time, to be passing. This, of course, will give the local sanitary authority an opportunity of ascertaining whether or not the serious illness is of an infectious or contagious character. In the event of its proving to be so, the sanitary authority will then be empowered to detain the boat for the purposes of inspection and cleansing and, before it will be allowed to proceed on its "journey" - the draughtsman of the bill must have had a doubt as to whether he ought not to have said "voyage" - it will be necessary to obtain either from the medical officer of health or from some other legally qualified practitioner, a certificate to the effect that the boat has been duly cleansed and disinfected.

So much for the provisions made by the new Act to prevent the spread of disease. Other clauses have for their objects either the creation of safeguards against the initial outbreak of such disease, or the removal of those conditions under which the want of proper accommodation for living and sleeping becomes directly destructive of all ideas of common decency and morality. Every canal boat which is to be used as a dwelling will have to be registered, and no boat will be registered until it has been inspected and ascertained to be fit for the purpose. Regulations as to the size and ventilation of the cabins are made which will, of course, act as guides to the inspecting officers. It will be illegal for a cabin occupied as a sleeping place by a husband and wife to be occupied by any except young children. These, and many other useful regulations will, it may be trusted, do something to introduce an approach to civilisation into the lives of people who have, in many cases, been living a life of barbarism. But even in the event of this new Act being carried out in all its entirety, and with the utmost success, there will still be ample scope for the labours of those philanthropists, some of whom have for years past shown a laudable anxiety to ameliorate the condition of the canal boatman. It is to be hoped, indeed, that the working of the Act will be such as to give the praiseworthy efforts of these philanthropists and canal side missionaries a better chance of success than they ever had when they found their most strenuous efforts confronted by the barbarism of thought which was the natural result of a virtual absence of civilisation from the lives of the livers on the canals.

197 3 July 1878

Sunday last ought to be regarded as a red letter day in the records of the men, women and children who are engaged in what is, somewhat quaintly, described as the "inland navigation" of England. For that day witnessed the commencement of the operation of the Act which was passed, last Session, for the registration and regulation of canal boats which are used as dwelling houses. This Act, it may be remembered, was one of the last to receive the Royal Assent previous to the close of the Parliamentary Session of 1877. It is an Act, however, with regard to which it was arranged that it should not come into practical effect except under the regulation of the Local Government Board. The result of this arrangement has been that the Act only became a power for good or evil on Sunday last. So far as it is possible, for the present, to judge, there is no reason for supposing that the effect of the working of the Act will be anything but absolutely beneficial to that section of the community - numerically, at least, by no means an unimportant one - in whose interests the Act has been passed. The probability, which is by no means inconsiderable, is that many of those who should benefit by the operation of the Act will be amongst the last to acknowledge the advantages conferred. That, however, will not alter the nature of the case. It may, indeed, be regarded as constituting one of the highest developments of civilisation, when a Government, acting under a free constitution, and with the consent of the great mass of the population, undertakes to accomplish, on behalf of large bodies of the community, reforms which would probably be resisted by those principally interested in the question. The Canal Boat Registration Act is simply one of many measures which have been passed since the present Government came into office, in redemption of the pledge given by the Premier, when he announced his *sanitas sanitatum* programme. We have already, on more than one occasion, referred to the leading provisions of this

measure, and recommended the principles on which it is based to the friendly consideration of all who are disposed to interest themselves in the sad case of a large class of her Majesty's subjects, who, owing to the peculiar conditions of their lives, have hitherto been shut out from almost all the benefits which social legislation has, during the present century, conferred upon the inhabitants of these islands. The Act, however, has a special interest for this part of the country, where, in spite of the extraordinary development of the railway system, the traffic on the canals is still of very large proportions. Writing in the absence of actual statistics on the subject, we should be inclined to hazard the supposition that no two counties will be more affected by the operation of the new Act than will Lancashire and Cheshire. There is something unique and picturesque in the life of canal residents which, in itself, constitutes a sufficient excuse for recurring to the subject of the Act. It is, no doubt, too true that this very picturesqueness, which has frequently arrested the attentions of graphic artists, working both in colours and in words, has been often associated with the utmost degradation of social and family relations, as well as with the most undesirable sanitary conditions. It is to be trusted, however, that the healthful spirit of reform which is embodied in the present Act of Parliament will enhance, rather than destroy, in every respect, the attractive conditions of life on the canal – a life which, apart from its frequent degrading surroundings, might be made to combine many of the requirements of those whose happiness is found in frequent change of scene, without the sacrifice of habitual occupation and companionship. These are objects for which people socially removed far above the position of the canal boatman and his family are found constantly making very considerable sacrifices ; and there is no reason why, if the objects aimed at in this Act could be thoroughly attained, these conditions should not be realised, to a very large extent, by the inland navigator of commerce and his family circle.

The commencement of the working of the Act affords a convenient opportunity for setting forth, briefly and concisely, the results which we may reasonably hope will be achieved by its operation. For the future, when on a pleasant lazy, hazy summer afternoon, a good natured idler, smoking his pipe on the parapet of a canal bridge, finds an artist like pleasure in watching the slow progress of a barge placidly cleaving the many coloured waters of a tree-overshadowed and thoroughly Netherlands looking canal, the pleasure he experiences at witnessing such a scene may be considerably enhanced if he knows that the little column of smoke rising from the cabin chimney no longer denotes, as it once did, the presence of a family, living under conditions which have been a disgrace to civilisation. The leading feature in the Act is that, for the future, no canal boat can be legally used as a dwelling place unless it is registered. And this requisite registration cannot be obtained unless certain regulations are first complied with. These regulations, it may be stated generally, affect such conditions as those of space, ventilation, storage of water and sanitary requirements. Thus, for example, every person who for the future may be allowed to reside in a given boat must be provided, in the cabin or cabins, with not less than sixty cubic feet of free air space, in case the resident is above twelve years of age. Should he be under that age he will be entitled, under the Act, and as a condition of registration, to forty cubic feet. A reduction of ten cubic feet per each young person, however, is permitted in the case of boats which have been built before last Sunday. Nor have arrangements for the maintenance of decorum been forgotten. A cabin occupied by a husband and wife, as a sleeping place, is not to be occupied at the same time by any female above twelve, or by any male above fourteen. Nor, again, is any sleeping cabin occupied by a male over fourteen to be used by a female over twelve, unless she is his wife. It would be well if every dwelling in Lancashire and other counties – even when their inmates are not, in the least degree, amphibious – could be placed under a similar code of regulations. So far as the sanitary and moral condition of the canal boatmen is concerned, if the working of the new Act prove to be successful, they will soon be able to realise the sentiment of the old sea song, and to “pity the poor fellows on shore”. Other requirements in the wording of the Act provide for the storage of not less than three gallons of water for drinking, so that the inmates of the boat may never be forced to use the filthy water of the canal, or the possibly filthier beer of the canal side public house ; for the presence of a stove and a chimney ; for lockers, cupboards and other furniture. None of these requirements can be held to be excessive, and all of them are, undoubtedly, necessary. We have, on

former occasions, explained at some length, those provisions of the Act which render it compulsory that, on the outbreak of any infectious disease, notice is to be given to the sanitary authority of the district where the boat is at the time of the outbreak. Canal boats, therefore, will no longer be permitted to be locomotive centres of pestilence. Not the least important of the provisions of the Act is that which places the children under the educational authority of the place where the boat is registered, which authority will, of course, be responsible for the educational care of these little ones, who number – be it remembered – over seventy thousand. Their neglected condition would, of itself, have constituted a sufficient reason for the passing of the Act.

198 27 July 1878

A DANGEROUS CANAL On Saturday, Mr G Molesworth, coroner, held an inquest at Middleton on the body of **Patrick Clifford**, a canal boatman, who was drowned in the Manchester and Rochdale Canal on the day previous. It was shown that the deceased fell into the canal while crossing the sluice gates at Boarshaw locks. The jury, in returning a verdict of “Accidental death”, made a recommendation that the canal company should place hand rails across the gates. The coroner said that he had been assured that, to canal boatmen, this was the most dangerous canal in the kingdom. Some time ago, he had forwarded a recommendation to the company in a similar case of drowning, that they should provide rails, but no notice was taken of it.

199 3 August 1878

MURDEROUS ASSAULT BY BOATMEN At Stoke, yesterday, a boatman named **Goode**, his wife and son, were committed for trial, for assaulting with intent an aged boatman named **Clarke**. The prisoners quarrelled with prosecutor as to who should pass first through a lock. They knocked the old man down with a boat shaft, rendering him insensible, knocked him about and threw him into the canal. When he was pulled out, they threw him in again, and prosecutor was taken away, helpless.

200 22 August 1878

Manchester County Police Court

WORKING A HORSE IN AN UNFIT CONDITION **James Pittifer**, boatman, Runcorn, was fined £3 and costs for working a horse at Worsley in an unfit condition.

201 22 October 1878

Manchester City Sessions

SENTENCES Nine months : **James McRoy**, 21, boatman, for stealing a horse and a set of harness.

202 22 November 1878

City Police Court

Alexander Simms, canal boatman, was charged with assaulting Joshua Sykes, an acting sergeant of the A division. Sykes deposed that, while on duty on Wednesday in Water Street, he saw the prisoner insulting two respectable women. He was drunk and when cautioned became abusive. Witness threatened to take him into custody, and prisoner walked away to a cabin resorted to by boatmen in Quay Street. Directly afterwards, while going in the opposite direction, witness was struck on the back of the head by some heavy instrument and knocked down. He was about to get up when he received several other blows on the head, and became partially insensible. He saw the prisoner standing over him with a piece of iron in his hand. He knocked him down, but before he could sound his whistle for help, it was snatched from him by one of a number of boatmen who had followed the prisoner. They interfered to prevent an arrest being made, and Simms was about to escape, when another officer (Police-constable Hake) appeared, and took him into custody. Witness received a large wound in the head and had to go to the Infirmary. Mr Headiam said the prisoner had been guilty of a savage and cowardly assault, and would be committed to gaol for six months with hard labour.

203 22 October 1879

Manchester Quarter Sessions

ACQUITTED **Henry Gill**, 27, boatman.

204 24 October 1879

HORRIBLE OUTRAGE ON A BOY Yesterday, a canal boatman named **Bowler** was apprehended at Devizes charged with an atrocious outrage on John Weston, aged 12 years. The boy was looking through an opening in the wall into the prisoner's house when he procured a red hot poker and thrust it into Weston's face. One eye was completely destroyed, and the boy lies in the Devizes Hospital in a precarious condition.

205 13 December 1879

Manchester Quarter Sessions

SENTENCES Four months imprisonment : **John Underhill**, 22, boatman, for stealing rope belonging to John Woodhead.

Three months imprisonment : **Henry Green**, 19, boatman, for stealing rope belonging to John Woodhead.

206 19 December 1879

Manchester Board of Guardians

LETTER FROM THE CITY CORONER A communication was read from the city coroner calling attention to the fact that at an inquest touching the death of an old woman named **Elizabeth Chorlton**, held on the 15th inst, the jury returned as their verdict that death resulted from natural disease, probably accelerated by insufficient food and comforts, and they recommended "that the guardians reconsider the propriety of having refused some outdoor relief in the case of a very aged widow with a son totally crippled".

The Clerk said that Mr Holland, the relieving officer for the district in question, had reported that the deceased, aged 84, a widow, late of 2 Eagle Street, applied for relief on the 19th of March 1879, in consequence of her age, sickness and want of means. He gave casual relief, and on the case being investigated, relief to the amount of 2s 6d in money was ordered per week for four weeks, at the expiration of which time, the order was renewed for four weeks, and was then reduced to 2s per week for four weeks. The case again came before the relief committee on the 17th June, when an order was made for the workhouse, but she refused to be removed. No application had since been made until the 15th inst, when her daughter applied for coffin and dues, which were granted. At the time of the application for relief by deceased, her son **Thomas**, a jobbing smith or boatman, who is a cripple, was residing with her, also a daughter aged 44, a braid weaver, earning about 7s per week. The Clerk said that a special inquiry had been made respecting the case, and the officer had ascertained that the daughter's earnings averaged about 12s 6d a week instead of the sum mentioned previously. The old woman was suffering from dropsy, and the guardians thought the workhouse hospital would be the best place for her.

The Chairman said the officers reported that the case was a proper one for the workhouse. The poor woman was in such a condition that she could not be attended to by a medical gentleman outside the workhouse. The object the guardians had in view in trying to get her into the workhouse was to make her old days more comfortable than they were at home, as her daughter was away all day at work.

Mr Chorlton said he thought it would be advisable to call the attention of the coroner to the facts of the case.

Mr Pooley remarked that the facts would no doubt appear in the newspapers, and the coroner would see the real state of the case from the reports.

Mr Chorlton thought it might be advisable to acknowledge the letter and point out the facts, because some day the coroner might probably make use of this case in a paper which he might write [Laughter].

The Clerk said the letter had been acknowledged by its being laid before the board.

The matter then dropped.

207 15 January 1880

CANAL BOATMEN

To the Editor of the Manchester Courier

Sir – In your impression for November 24 1879, I saw an interesting letter on the above subject by the Rev William Caine. Permit me, as a missionary to the boat people at Manchester, in connection with the City Mission, to make a few statements respecting work done among this class in our city and neighbourhood. I would have done so before had I not been from home. I have been often pained in my mind when reading letters in our public journals relative to boat people, written by men who know but little of the real social and moral condition of this class of people ; but I must admit there is much truth in the letter of the the Rev William Caine. He quotes from a letter written to him by a friend in the Midland counties. What that friend says has reference to narrow boats only. There are three kinds of boats navigating our canals and rivers in England and Wales, viz flats, lighters and narrow boats. What is true respecting the intelligence, knowledge and moral character of narrow boat people and lightermen is not by any means correct in relation to flatmen. People who live in narrow boats and come through Manchester from the Midland counties and other distant stations, are far inferior in point of intelligence and morality to our Manchester flatmen. I say this after labouring among them every day for nearly five years. I mention, for example, the Bridgewater Navigation Co, and I might mention Kenworthy and Co, and others. Not one unmarried couple are allowed to live in any of their flats. Most of the men can read and write, and the companies provide each boat with a bible. Now, sir, I go among them from day to day simply as a Christian man, to try to win them for Christ on purely unsectarian ground, and for the information of the public at large and in justice to the Christian Church of Manchester, permit me to state what is done by me among them every year, regularly, in a quiet way. I pay 5,000 visits to them, read the Scriptures in their boats 4,350 times, and distribute 17, 500 religious tracts among them, published by the Religious Tract Society. In addition to this, I deliver two gospel addresses for boatmen and drivers every week at their kitchens, to an average attendance from 15 to 20 at each meeting.

Mr Caine says that the Sunday traffic on the canal should be prohibited. There would be no need for prohibition whatever on the part of the companies. They would willingly stop Sunday work if all the railways would cease to run goods on the Lord's Day. In relation to tying up and public houses, for one public house there may be for boatmen at tying up places, there are ten such places for working men on shore, both in villages and large towns, on Sunday and work days. Mr Caine has mentioned a case of special depravity which he received from his friend in the Midland counties. I believe that to be true. I could mention similar cases myself. Still, allow me to say that there is not a town in England where there is much more done for the education and spiritual enlightenment of canal boatman than at Manchester. There is no other town in the kingdom where you could find so many places of worship clustering at the very gates of the wharves as you have at Manchester, both at Piccadilly and Knott Mill, the principal tying up places, where they may hear of Jesus as the way to Heaven. Yours &c,

JAMES THOMAS, City Missionary
220 Tatton Street, Salford.

208 3 February 1880

EXTENSIVE “SMASHING” BY A MANCHESTER MAN At the Tipton Police Court yesterday morning, **John Davies alias John Taylor**, 35, bricklayer, was charged with passing several base coins on various shopkeepers in Tipton. When apprehended by the police, he had on him base coins representing £8, in florins, shillings and sixpences. The prisoner, who is known to the Manchester police as a boatman and pugilist, was committed to the sessions.

209 5 February 1880

DEATH FROM HYDROPHOBIA Yesterday, Mr Edge held an inquest at Astley near Leigh, concerning the death of **Richard Wignall**, canal boatman, 56 years of age, which took place on

Sunday evening. It seemed, about 11 weeks ago, another boatman named **William Beasty** took his bull and terrier dog to the house of the deceased, stating that it had attacked and bitten him in three places on the arm. It was decided to drown the animal, which was muzzled, being first tied up in a sack. In securing the dog, it sprang at the deceased, making a slight scratch on the side of the face which bled a little, but no further notice was taken of the matter. Beasty, however, went to Manchester repeatedly to have his wounds cauterised. Deceased had been unwell about six weeks, but did not leave off work until the 28th ult, and no doctor was called in before Saturday. The symptoms were, however, plainly hydrophobic, but deceased refused to go to the Manchester Infirmary, remarking that he preferred to die at home. The coroner said he had great faith in vapour baths, and believed if commenced in time and continued a few weeks, fatal results might be avoided. A verdict that deceased died from hydrophobia caused by the bite of a dog was returned.

210 7 February 1880

BODY FOUND IN THE CANAL On Tuesday afternoon, a boatman named **Venables** was pushing his boat along the canal at Hulme Lock, and pulled up with his hook the body of a man. Information was given to the police, and the body removed to the mortuary. The face was very badly cut, and there were two marks on the chest ; but it is believed these have been made since death, there being small steamers at work on the canal. The body, which had apparently been five or six days in the water, was that of a stout built man, and was dressed in cord trousers, two shirts and a scarf. An inquest was held on Wednesday, but no evidence of identity was forthcoming, and an open verdict was therefore returned.

211 29 April 1880

Manchester City Sessions

SENTENCES Five years penal servitude and seven years police supervision : **Samuel White**, boatman, for stealing two ropes and other articles, the property of Thomas Spivey (after previous convictions).

212 11 June 1880

Manchester Quarter Sessions

SENTENCES Twelve months imprisonment and seven years police supervision : **Matthew Holland**, 21, boatman, for breaking and entering, on the 15th May, the warehouse of Richard Hardwicke and others, and stealing 14 skirts, and with stealing, on the 11th May, a suit of clothes and other articles, the property of Thomas Heathcote.

213 5 July 1880

SUSPECTED MURDER OF A CANAL BOATMAN IN CHESHIRE Information reached Chester on Saturday morning of an affair which is likely to lead to serious results. It appears that on the previous day, the Shropshire Union canal boat *Eyton*, from Nantwich to Chester, arrived at Bunbury locks. **William Ruscoe**, the master of the boat, on reaching there, asked **Cadman**, the lock-keeper to bring a light, as he believed "Deck" (referring to a boatman known to the lock-keeper as **Richard Price**) was dead. Cadman accordingly got a light, and on running into the cabin, found Price lying dead, with his head against the stove. The man's head, the cabin floor and the stove were bespattered with blood. There was a large fracture on the man's skull. The police were called in, and Police-constable Latham found under the cabin floor a hammer which had some hairs upon it, and also what appeared to be bloodstains. Dr Fitzpatrick made a *post mortem* examination of the body by order of the coroner, and found a fracture of the skull in his opinion sufficient to cause death, and that externally there was a cut and separate bruises about the head. It also transpired that there had been a drinking bout among the canal men at Nantwich, part of the cargo up to the place having been porter. An inquest has been formally opened and adjourned.

[See also article dated 10 July 1880, where name of victim is given as Richard Colley]

214 10 July 1880

AMUSING ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE A CHILD AT ROTHERHAM A rather amusing incident

occurred at a Rotherham public house on Thursday. For some time past, a boatman and carter, who hails from Holbeck Moor near Leeds, and is well known in the town, has been on the "spree". Yesterday morning he visited a popular hostelry in High Street and was supplied with some refreshment. While he was enjoying the delicacies which had been set before him, a little child came toddling up to the table, and with her prattling tongue, her winsome ways, and her smiling countenance, so enchanted the visitor that he offered to purchase the child. The mother was in the house, and when consulted, she expressed her willingness to part with her darling in exchange for the amount which was offered to her by the would be purchaser – namely one sovereign. This was readily paid, and in order to show his satisfaction with the supposed purchase, the visitor treated the company to a bottle of champagne, as he said, in order to "fasten the bargain". Unfortunately for him, the wine, instead of fastening the bargain, had the opposite effect, and when after the last drop of the sparkling liquid had been sipped, the visitor applied for the child, the mother coolly turned round and offered to return him the sovereign instead. This was indignantly refused, and the anxious purchaser rushed off to the police station to obtain the assistance of the officers of the law in enabling him to secure his prize. However, he was again doomed to disappointment. This aroused the man's indignation still further, and instead of quietly returning to Holbeck, he went to various places in the town, bemoaning the treatment to which he had been subjected.

215 10 July 1880

RESCUE FROM DROWNING On Thursday night, an accident happened to Mr Idle, a member of the Prince of Wales Rowing Club, while rowing in a skiff on the Irwell. The boat was overturned, and he was thrown into the water midstream. Mr Idle was able to swim a little, but, losing his presence of mind, had not the power to save himself. Cries were raised by several persons on the towing-path when he was seen to sink, and a boatman named **Olive**, engaged by **Mark Addy**, ran to the spot. He was unsuccessful in reaching Mr Idle the first time he dived into the water, but plunging in a second time, seized him just as he was drowning. Considering the risk attendant upon the rescue of a person from drowning in such a polluted river as the Irwell, the gallantry of Olive is beyond praise, and it is highly deserving of substantial recognition by the Royal Humane Society. We believe that he already holds the silver medal of the Manchester and Salford Humane Society for saving life under similar circumstances.

216 10 July 1880

MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR IN CHESHIRE The adjourned inquest on the body of **Richard Colley**, canal boatman, Wolverhampton, found dead with his skull fractured on the Shropshire Union Canal at Bunbury, Cheshire, was resumed yesterday before the county coroner at Chester, when evidence was called proving that there was a number of barrels of porter on board the canal boat *Eyton*, on which the deceased was employed, and upon the arrival of the boat at Nantwich, two men also employed on the boat, named **Roscoe** and **Evans**, were seen in a state of intoxication. Suspicions were aroused that the cargo was being broached. The boat was followed to Bunbury, where the deceased was found lying in the cabin in a pool of blood, with a fractured skull. The medical evidence showed that death might have been caused by a fall or by a violent blow. A poker, having upon it what were supposed to be spots of blood and hairs, was found in the cabin, and a constable produced the coat which Roscoe was wearing, which also bore blood smears. The deceased's companions were unable to throw any light upon the affair, except that the deceased, when last seen alive, was in the cabin in a helpless state of intoxication. The jury, after consultation, found that the deceased came to his death by violence, but how inflicted there was not sufficient evidence to show. [\[Note – the name is shown as Richard Price not Colley in the article dated 5 July 1880\]](#)

217 10th July 1880

Shortly before 10 o'clock on Thursday morning, **Thomas Owens**, a flatman, discovered the body of a fully developed male child floating in the Nelson Dock, Liverpool. It was at once taken out and removed to the Prince's Dock deadhouse by Police-constable 309. The body was quite naked and

foul play is suspected. An inquest will be held.

218 21 August 1880

RIOTOUS PROCEEDINGS AT OLD TRAFFORD Ten youths, varying in ages from 15 to 18 years respectively, all residents of Salford, were charged before Sir John I Mantell, the stipendiary, with having assaulted a number of policemen and others in the vicinity of Old Trafford on Sunday afternoon. The prisoners were named as follows : John Mooney, Edward Higgins, Thomas Lowther, Joseph Clarkson, John Delaney, John Morgan, John Burns, Allen Leitch, Joseph Hogan, and John Jackson. Lowther is a compositor ; the rest are all employed in factories and other works in Salford. The facts, as stated by Mr Superintendent Bent, and subsequently sworn to by several witnesses, were in substance as follows. About five o'clock on Sunday afternoon, it was discovered that above 100 boys were near the Rochdale Canal adjoining Sir Humphrey de Trafford's park at the "water meetings". Some of the boys were bathing in the canal. Sir Humphrey de Trafford's watcher, named John Spencer, observed the youths, and saw them running about the fields and doing considerable damage. They pulled down rails, threw them into the canal, and ran ruthlessly through the corn fields. Spencer approached them, and remonstrated with them on their conduct, at the same time endeavouring to apprehend two of them. He was immediately set upon by a number of the roughs, who picked up stones and other missiles from the towing-path of the canal, and threw them at him. Compelled to beat a retreat for his own safety, he was pursued through the fields and followed into Mr Kelsall's farmyard in the neighbourhood, where he obtained the assistance of several of Mr Kelsall's farm labourers. Not daunted by this, the roughs attacked the party with stones, and further took up some pikels which they got from a shed in the farmyard, and made a murderous onslaught on the men with the weapons. This resulted in Spencer and his party being driven out of the yard, and they were pursued by the mob along the canal bank. John Donoghue and Martin Varley, farm labourers in the employ of Mr Bancroft, were badly beaten with the pikels, and received somewhat serious injuries, and both Spencer and the others received numerous blows from the stones that were thrown. In the meantime, an intimation had been sent to the police of the occurrence, and while Spencer and his friends were protecting themselves as best they could, a number of policemen arrived on the scene. The officers endeavoured to reason with the mob, which by this time was estimated to number nearly 200, but the only reply they got was a shower of stones, which were sent at them both from the canal bank and the bridge close by. Thereupon, the police charged the crowd, who ran, the officers pursuing them as far as Throstle Nest Bridge. At the same time, further assistance was sent for, and on reaching Stretford Road, another detachment of men from Old Trafford, in plain clothes and uniform, joined in the chase, and succeeded in apprehending the ten prisoners, whom they took to the Old Trafford Police station. Spencer, who was very roughly handled, was knocked down and hit on the side of the head and several other parts of the body with stones. Police-constables Tracey, Chipchase, Carr and a boatman named **James Goodier** proved that all the boys excepting Lowther threw stones at the police.

In answer to the bench, several of the prisoners denied the statements of the witnesses, and alleged that they were not near the place referred to, but no contradictory evidence was offered on their behalf.

Sir John I Mantell, addressing the prisoners, said : You are not here upon any trifling charge. All of you, varying in ages from 15 to 18 years, were concerned in a matter on Sunday that, if it were pushed to the extreme, would cause you to be placed in the dock on a charge of rioting. But it has not been thought desirable to make so serious a charge as that against you. However, I find all excepting Thomas Lowther have been guilty of assaulting the police, and you have also been guilty of riotous conduct on a Sunday, disturbing the public peace, and doing what so many of you fellows do – allowing no one to live in comfort. Further than this, after the constables came you continued to throw stones. Upon Thomas Lowther, I shall pass a sentence of two months imprisonment with hard labour, for common assault. Upon the whole of the others, I shall pass a sentence of three months with hard labour.

219 11 September 1880

THE SHOCKING DISCOVERY IN LIVERPOOL An inquest was held yesterday by the Liverpool coroner on the body of **William Morris**, a flatman, who was said to have no settled place of abode. The deceased was last seen alive on Monday, and on Wednesday afternoon, his dead body was found in the top storey of a warehouse belonging to the Runcorn Soap and Alkali Company at the Chester basin. The face and hands were shockingly disfigured from being eaten by rats, and the body was much decomposed. On the medical evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "Died from natural causes".

220 18 September 1880

ATTEMPTING TO DROWN A GIRL AT HUDDERSFIELD **George Hellowell**, canal boatman, South Street, Huddersfield, was charged before the borough justices on Monday with having attempted to drown a girl named Ellen Harvey, a millhand of Leeds Road. Shortly after 11 o'clock on Friday night, Harvey and her landlady, a married woman named Sarah Hirst, who is separated from her husband, met Hellowell in Castlegate. He knew the woman Hirst, and he told them he would have treated them to some beer only it was after 11 o'clock, but he asked them to go to a boat lying in the canal basin at Aspley, where they could have plenty to eat and drink. They went to the canal basin, and on arriving there Hellowell asked the girl Harvey to go back, but she refused, saying she intended to go where her friend went. Thereupon, prisoner pushed the girl into the canal. She sank, but came to the surface and tried to scream, but was unable to do so, and again sank. When she came up again, the woman Hirst called to her, and told the prisoner that if he did not help to get her out she would cry out, "Murder", and swear her life against his. The prisoner put his hand on the girl's head and pushed her back into the water, but he ultimately caught hold of her, and the woman Hirst dragged her to the bank, and got her out of the water in a very exhausted state. The prisoner then went away. Information was subsequently given to Police-constable Casson, who apprehended the prisoner in a boat at Turnbridge about three o'clock on Saturday morning. On being charged with the offence, the prisoner said, "I didn't push her into the water ; I was not within 20 yards of her when she fell in". The prisoner now stated that he met the complainant and Hirst, who wanted him to give them some drink ; but as it was closing time, he asked them to go with him to his boat, and in the darkness on the way there the girl accidentally fell into the water, but he did all he could to get her out. The magistrates committed the prisoner for trial at the assizes.

221 25 September 1880

BANKRUPTS **HERON J**, Halifax, boatman.

222 1 January 1881

At Wolverhampton on Wednesday, **Edward Evans**, a Welsh boatman, was sent to gaol for six months on no fewer than nine charges – five of them being assaults, three on policemen and two on civilians. On Tuesday night, he was mad drunk in a public house, and the police were called in to eject him. He violently assaulted them, and made his escape to the canal where, getting into his boat he, with the assistance of other boatmen, effectually kept the police at bay for a considerable time. The police, finding themselves overmatched, obtained the assistance of some civilians, and got the prisoner to the police station. Another boatman named **Howels**, who had assisted Evans in resisting the police, was sentenced to four months hard labour.

223 11 February 1881

A MYSTERIOUS DEATH On Wednesday, Mr Yates, district coroner for Mid Cheshire, held an inquest at Middlewich upon the body of **Richard Goddard**, aged 30, a boatman, who died from severe burns. The deceased had been drinking at the Red Lion Inn, Marston, one evening last week, and he complained to a friend named Joseph Jennings of being badly burned. Jennings sent a man with the boat belonging to the deceased to his home at Middlewich. The deceased declined to tell even his own wife how he had sustained the injuries. A man who was employed by the deceased is

now missing. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from burning, how or where received there was no evidence to show".

224 26 February 1881

At Huddersfield on Wednesday, **George Goodier**, boatman, Wakefield, was charged with having, on the 28th of October last year, inflicted grievous bodily harm on Tom Fletcher aged 15 years of Colne Bridge near Huddersfield. On the afternoon in question, the complainant and his mother were walking along the canal bank, and the boy was a yard or two behind his mother. They passed the defendant, who was in charge of a horse, and who was under the influence of drink. There were several other boys walking on the canal bank at the time. Defendant said, "I'll drown some of you ----", and immediately seized the complainant by the trousers and coat collar and threw him into the canal, where the water was very deep, being near a lock. Mrs Fletcher turned round and saw her boy disappear, and asked the prisoner what he was doing. He replied, "It has nothing to do with you", upon which she said, "He is my boy". The defendant then pulled the complainant out of the water and went on his way. The bench committed the defendant for trial, but allowed bail, himself in £40, and two sureties of £20 each.

225 25 April 1881

SIR JOHN ILES MANTELL ON CRUELTY TO ANIMALS At the Manchester County Police Court on Saturday, before Sir J Iles Mantell, a boatman named **Robert Alty** of Bedford Leigh was charged on remand with cruelty to a horse. Police-constable Holland stated that on Wednesday he saw the prisoner driving the horse, which was drawing two boats containing about 50 tons of coal, on the canal at Barton. The horse was very weak and was completely need up. The case was before the court on Thursday, when evidence was given by a veterinary surgeon that the animal was scarcely able to stand, and was totally unfit for work. Sir John remarked that the case was one of the most frightful he had ever seen, and this was the opinion of two colleagues who sat with him on Thursday. He now sentenced the prisoner to two months imprisonment with hard labour, without the option of a fine, adding that if he had any influence in the making of the laws, which he had not, the punishment he would give those who ill treated poor dumb creatures would be that of flogging, so that they might taste on their skins the pain they inflicted on dumb creation.

226 4 May 1881

A FATAL QUARREL A boatman named **Thomas Whittle** was yesterday remanded on a charge of having caused the death of **Thomas Smith**, also a canal boatman, who has died at the Leigh Workhouse from a broken spine. On Saturday night, the two men quarrelled in a public house, which they left to fight, during which Smith fell or was thrown over a wall, death ensuing on Monday morning.

227 4 June 1881

TWO MEN FOUND DROWNED IN THE IRWELL Mr F Price, district coroner, yesterday held inquests on the bodies of two men who had been found drowned in the river Irwell. The first was on the body of a man who had not been identified. A boat keeper's assistant named **William Olive**, living at 27 Gertrude Street, Regent Road, Salford, said that shortly after two o'clock on Thursday afternoon, he was near Mark Addy's boathouse, when he heard that the body of a man was floating down the river. He took a boat, and saw the body near Messrs Worrall's dyeworks. He brought it to the side and dragged it onto the bank, and it was afterwards taken by Police-constable Murphy and another man to the Silk Street mortuary. The body was that of a man about 35 or 40 years of age, and was much decomposed. It appeared to have been in the water about 14 days. The second enquiry was held at the Waverley Hotel, Eccles New Road, on the body of James McConochie, a machine fitter, 45 years of age. The deceased was said to have been out of employment for some time, and on Tuesday night he was admitted to the tramp ward of the Salford Union Workhouse. Having performed his task work, he was liberated at 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning, and at

about four o'clock in the afternoon, his body was found floating in the river near Mode Wheel Locks. The body was recovered by **Edward Bostles**, a boatman, and taken to the mortuary at the workhouse. The jury returned an open verdict in each case of "Found drowned".

228 6 June 1881

FATAL AFFRAY IN A PRESTON PUBLIC HOUSE On Saturday evening, several men were in the Jolly Tars public house, Ladywell Street, Preston, and while drinking, one of them, **Robert Kellett**, a boatman on the canal, and about 50 years of age, kicked another man, John Isherwood. Being enraged at this, Isherwood knocked down Kellett, who on regaining his feet, expressed a desire to fight. Another man in the place named George Bateman then with his flat hand hit Kellett upon the face. Kellett fell back upon the floor, was picked up insensible, and taken to his son's house in Foster Square. Two or three medical men here saw and examined the man, and it was found that the back part of his skull was fractured. Kellett lingered on in a state of unconsciousness till early yesterday morning, when he died. The two men, Isherwood and Bateman are in custody, and they will be brought before the borough bench today.

229 29 June 1881

STRANGE DROWNING CASE On Monday evening, Mr H Gilbertson, coroner, held an inquest at the Navigation Inn, Whittle-le-Woods near Preston, on the body of Richard Woodcock, a powerloom weaver aged 37 years. On Friday night last, deceased, who had been drinking all day with a boatman named **Henry Walmsley**, went with his companion to sleep on his boat on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. On waking on Saturday morning, Walmsley missed deceased, but saw his clogs on the boat, and becoming alarmed and suspecting that he had fallen overboard, searched the water and found his body hanging over the tow rope, close to the boat. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

230 9 July 1881

Salford Hundred Quarter Sessions

SENTENCES Nine months imprisonment : **William Robinson alias Pemberton**, 38, boatman, for stealing lead at Newton.

231 13 July 1881

Manchester County Police Court

CHARGE OF WIFE BEATING A boatman named **John Eden**, living at Cadishead, was charged with having unlawfully wounded his wife **Elizabeth**. Prosecutrix stated that on Monday evening her husband returned home partially drunk. She asked him if he wanted his tea, when he answered with an oath that he neither wanted her nor her tea. She had her child, which was three weeks old, in her arms and he, taking off his guernsey and rolling up his shirt sleeves, told her to put it down. Before she could do so, he seized the child and threw it into the cradle, and then taking up a poker, made a blow at her head. He failed to hit her, but the poker struck the door with such force that it split a panel. He, however, struck her afterwards on the head and arm with the poker, inflicting several dangerous wounds, from which she became insensible. On being apprehended by Police-constable Crompton, prisoner said that drink had made him unconscious of what he did. He was committed for trial at the assizes.

232 19 July 1881

Manchester County Police Court

MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR Thomas Green, 17 years of age, living at 9 Saville Street, Newton Heath, was charged on suspicion, before Sir John Mantell and Mr T Dickins, with having caused the death of Annie Doolan, by pushing her into the Rochdale Canal at Newton.

Mr Superintendent Bent said this was rather a mysterious case. On Sunday night about 10 o'clock the deceased woman, who was about 29 years of age, was seen going down Grimshaw's Lane with the prisoner, who had his arm round her. They were walking in the direction of the canal, and soon after a boatman found her floating in the water quite dead. The prisoner made a statement to the effect that when they got to the canal, deceased said she would have a bathe, and went some

distance away from him. He then saw her floating on the water, and he thought she was really swimming. She had no clothes on, having divested herself of her attire when she left him. A boatman happened to come up, and the prisoner called out to him that a woman was bathing a little higher up. The boatman went up and found that she was dead. So far, added Mr Bent, as they could ascertain, there were no marks of violence upon the body. Her clothes were found hanging on a rail near the canal, and in the pocket was found a bottle, but what it contained the police could not at present say. The father of the deceased said that when she left home at 10 o'clock, she was in good spirits.

Sir John Mantell : Where did the young man go after this had transpired?

Mr Bent : He gave information to the boatman and was then going towards his own home. An officer, however, heard of the occurrence and brought him back.

Sir John Mantell : Do you know what acquaintance there was between the parties?

Mr Bent : This man's brother married a sister of the deceased.

Sir John : Do you know whether they were keeping company?

Mr Bent : I can't say ; but it is a fact that as they were going down this Grimshaw Lane he had his arm round her.

Daniel Fletcher, a boatman, 117 Mill Street, Bradford, stated that about half past 10 on Sunday night, he saw the prisoner and the deceased going along the canal bank. The prisoner had his arm around her waist. He did not appear to be forcing her to go in that direction, and they did not speak. He observed also that as they passed down the slope leading from the bridge to the canal side, she went first and he followed. Witness stood on the bridge until they had got some 30 yards away along the canal bank.

Sir John : What was the last you saw of them?

Witness : They were walking outside the railings on the canal bank. A quarter of an hour afterwards I met some women running for a policeman saying that somebody had been drowned.

Mr Bent : You heard no screaming?

Witness : Nothing at all.

Did you see her clothing? Yes, it was hanging on the railings on the canal bank. Did they seem to have been hung there with care? Yes, just as she had taken them off. Her clothes were not torn? No, sir.

Mr Bent then asked that the prisoner might be remanded till after a *post mortem* examination of the body had been made and the inquest held, and the bench accordingly remanded the prisoner till tomorrow.

On leaving the dock, the prisoner said when they got to the canal the young woman asked him to stand aside, as she was going to bathe. He, however, pressed her not to go into the water.

233 19 July 1881

Manchester Summer Assizes

SERIOUS ASSAULT ON A WIFE **John Eden**, boatman, was charged with having, at Barton-on-Irwell, wounded his wife with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm. Mr Hulton prosecuted and Mr Hamilton defended. On the 11th July, prisoner went home the worse for drink, and on his wife asking him if he wanted his tea he replied that he neither wanted tea nor her. He then locked the door, and seizing the poker, beat the woman with it, inflicting serious injury. In summing up, his lordship remarked that, with the exception of the painful case they had just heard, (*a shooting in Oldham*) every case which had come before him at these assizes had either begun or ended with drink. The jury found the prisoner guilty of unlawful wounding. In passing sentence, the learned judge said he must show that the wives and women of England were not to be assaulted for an afternoon's amusement, and knocked about with pokers by their husbands for their own pleasure when they had a little time on their hands. Prisoner was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

234 23 July 1881

SUICIDE AT FARNWORTH A man named **John Hart**, aged 57, of Farnworth, who has been nearly all his life in the employ of the Bridgewater Trustees as underground boatman, has

committed suicide. He had been in delicate health for some time, and laboured under the delusion that he was haunted. His sister, with whom he resided, hearing him go downstairs, followed, and found him stooping over a mug with his throat cut. He died in a few minutes.

235 30 July 1881

ALLEGED CHILD MURDER At Leeds Assizes on Thursday, Sarah Ann Garnett, married woman, was indicted for the wilful murder of Martha Elizabeth Garnett, at Bingley on the 9th May last. Mr Stansfield and Mr Ingham were counsel for the prosecution ; Mr Hardy defended. On the 9th May, a boatman named **Patchett**, when at Sandbeds, a place about half way from Keighley and Bingley, saw a bundle in the canal. He got it out of the water, and then two stones fell from the bundle. He then discovered that the bundle contained the dead body of a child. The body was removed to the Craven Heifer Inn, and it was identified as the child of the prisoner. In February, the prisoner was lodging at Keighley at the house of a man named William Wood ; but about the 1st March, she went to the Keighley Workhouse, where she remained until the 9th May. Her confinement took place in the infirmary of the workhouse upon the 9th April ; and the evidence showed that the child which was then born was the one whose body was found in the canal. His Lordship, in summing up, remarked that in law there was an implication of malice where the circumstances were such that they could infer from them a design to kill. If they believed that the prisoner wrapped the child up, placed stones upon its body, and then put it living into the water, from those facts there would be sufficient implication of what was called malice in law to render her act equivalent to the crime of murder. The jury then retired, and after being absent an hour and a half, returned with a verdict of guilty of manslaughter. His Lordship deferred sentence.

236 6 August 1881

LIFE IN A CANAL BOAT On Tuesday, Mr Price, coroner, held an inquest at Droylsden respecting the death of a child aged three months, daughter of **Richard Seymour**, residing at English Row, Runcorn. The father of the child is a boatman, and is assisted by his wife in the management of the boat. On Saturday, they were making a journey from Manchester to Bugsworth, and about eight o'clock they moored their boat for the night at Fairfield Top Lock, Droylsden. The father and mother retired to bed in the cabin, with the child. The mother awoke at five o'clock next morning, and found the child dead and cold, lying on her left side. The mother stated that the child had only been vaccinated the previous Monday. She had ten other children living at Runcorn. The Coroner said the child might have been suffocated because, as the jury had seen, there was not over much room in the cabin for sleeping accommodation. He trusted he would live long enough to see a law passed to prevent families sleeping in the cabins of these canal boats. The jury returned an open verdict of "Found dead in bed in the cabin of a canal boat".

237 13 August 1881

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE IN CHESTER ROAD At the early hour of six o'clock on Tuesday morning, the denizens of Little Street, York Street, Chester Road, Hulme, in this city, were aroused from their slumbers by loud and piercing shrieks, which evidently came from a female in distress. Many people at once rushed to their windows, and then they saw a young woman half hanging out of the window in a house in Little Street, occupied by **Mr Acton Walker**, herbalist, who keeps a small lock up shop at the corner of Southam Street and Chester Road. She was uttering loud and distressing cries, and blood was running from her neck and face. The young woman's name is Mary Ann Hartley ; she is 19 years of age, and is the daughter, by her first husband, of Mrs Walker. The facts connected with the matter as they have since been ascertained are these :- Between four and five o'clock in the morning, Mrs Walker and a younger daughter left the house as usual to open a coffee stall at the corner of Southam Street. About six o'clock, Henry Walker, a youth 23 years of age, who has been under the doctor for some time, and is by some considered to be not quite right in his head, got up quietly and, opening a large clasp knife, he entered the room in which his stepsister slept and at once made an attack upon her, cutting her about

the throat. She cried out loudly and made brave attempts to defend herself, and received a number of hacking cuts on the face and head. Her stepfather, hearing her cries, rushed into the room, got behind his son, and engaged in a struggle with him for the possession of the knife, in the course of which he received several wounds, but he did not succeed in wrenching the weapon from his son's hand until the son had attempted to commit suicide by cutting his own throat. However, he did ultimately wrest the knife from him and rushed with it into the street, the neighbours having in the meantime rescued the daughter by pulling her through the window into the street. In the meantime, the police had arrived, and all three persons were removed to the infirmary, where their wounds were dressed, after which Henry Walker was removed in custody to the police station.

Henry Walker, 23, living at 18 Little Street, Bradshaw Street, Hulme, was, on Tuesday, charged before Mr Headlam at the Manchester City Police Court with having attempted to murder his father, Acton Walker, and his stepsister, Mary Ellen Hartley, and also with having attempted to take his own life by cutting his throat. Prisoner's father, who follows the occupation of a boatman, keeps also a small herbalist's shop at the corner of Southam Street and Chester Road. He appeared in court with his head and face completely covered with bandages, and was evidently in a weak condition. From his evidence, it appeared that about six o'clock on Tuesday morning, he was awoke by the screams of his stepdaughter, who slept in an upper room. The prisoner occupied the same room as himself. He jumped up at once and looked for his son, but not seeing him in bed, he rushed into his stepdaughter's room. He there saw the prisoner leaning over the girl and stabbing her with a clasp knife, while she was trying to ward off the blows with her arm. He seized the prisoner, who then turned upon him, and a struggle ensued, during which he (witness) received several stabs. He thought he would have been murdered had not assistance been forthcoming. He eventually managed to wrest the knife from him, not, however, before he had managed to draw it twice across his own throat. Witness added that prisoner had been for some time subject to fits. Police-constable Judd, who received information of the occurrence, stated that he arrived at Walker's house about 10 minutes past six, where he saw the prisoner, who was bleeding from a wound in the throat, being held down by two men. The father was also bleeding from two or three wounds, his left ear, cheek and lower lip having been cut through. The girl had received several stabs. She had five wounds in the right arm, two in the left, and also one in the throat. Witness took the parties to the infirmary, where their injuries were attended to, and afterwards removed the prisoner to the police station and charged him with attempting to murder. He made no reply. No further evidence was offered, the girl being unable to attend court, and the prisoner was remanded for a week.

238 27 September 1881

SHOCKING FATALITY **Elizabeth Ashcroft**, wife of a Liverpool boatman, was found drowned in a canal at Aspull.

239 29 October 1881 **Chester Assizes**

William Jones (21), boatman, of Tunstall, for a similar offence (*burglary*) at Middlewich on October 9th was sentenced to 12 months hard labour.

240 5 November 1881

A boatman named **Abel Jones** was convicted of having stolen a jug and one quart of ale, the property of Mr Charles Herinshaw of the Albion Inn, Nelson Street, on the previous Saturday night. The prisoner was committed to gaol for one month with hard labour.

241 5 November 1881

OUTRAGE AT BURNLEY Yesterday morning at Burnley, a boatman named **Samuel Heaton** was charged with brutally assaulting Elizabeth Marland, a married woman. The prisoner met the prosecutrix late on the previous evening in St James's Street, and because she refused to go with him, he struck her in the face and kicked her in a brutal manner about the legs. He was committed to prison for two months.

242 24 November 1881

THE FENIAN PLOT IN BRADFORD – FURTHER DISCOVERY OF FIREARMS Our readers will recollect that it has been several times stated in connection with the discovery of firearms in Bradford that the police had for some months had information that about 100 revolvers were among the “war material” which had been sent to Bradford. As only 40 were found in Tobin's house, there were 60 to be still accounted for. The investigations of the police brought forward information that some of the firearms had been sunk in the Bradford Canal, and Superintendent Laycock and other officers some days ago proceeded to drag the canal with a view to find them. The drags caught something heavy on one occasion, but after considerable tugging they gave way, and the officers were afterwards unable to find that which had previously obstructed their dragging implements. From what has now come to light, it is believed that this obstruction must have been a bag containing more “war material”, for yesterday morning, a boatman while employed near the limekiln discovered at the bottom of the canal several revolvers. He continued his search until he got nine, but was unable to find more. Information was at once given to the police, and the weapons removed to the Town Hall. They were found loose in the water, and only one or two of them were covered with small bags to preserve them from the effects of the water. The search of the canal will be at once renewed by the police authorities.

243 28 November 1881

EXTRAORDINARY STABBING CASE AT ELLESMERE PORT On Saturday, an extraordinary case of stabbing was heard at the Chester County Police Court, before the Rev R Richardson, Earl Grosvenor and other magistrates. **James White**, a middle aged boatman living at Ellesmere Port, was charged with unlawfully wounding a boy named Henry White, who is no relative of the prisoner, by stabbing him. The statement of the boy was to the effect that he lived with his grandfather, who was a lock tender. On Wednesday afternoon, he was going along the canal towards Eastham, in company with another boy named Hughes, about half past two, when the prisoner came after them. He came up to witness, and saying, “-----”, sent a knife into his back. The knife produced was the one the prisoner used. The Chairman : Did you know him before? Witness : Yes, I have been with him many a time and he has never done anything at me. - Was he drunk or sober? Sober, sir. The Clerk : And you had no quarrel with him? No sir, I had no quarrel with him. The prisoner was asked if he had any questions to ask the witness. He replied : Well, I did not say ----- at all. The Chairman : You hear what he says, that you went up to him, said something, and drove the knife into his back. The Prisoner : Yes : I went to look after the boats. Mr J F Roberts, surgeon at Ellesmere Port, said he attended the boy White after receiving the injury. The boy was in a fainting condition from loss of blood and shock to the system. He had a wound in the back about an inch long and half an inch deep. The wound was clean cut, and such as might have been caused by the knife produced. He had been attending the prosecutor, who was now convalescent. The Chairman (to the prisoner) : If you wish to ask the doctor a question about that, you can do so. The Prisoner : Yes, that's the knife, and it would be about that depth. The boy White, in answer to the Bench, said he fell when the prisoner struck him, but afterwards ran home, a distance of one mile. Police-constable Wilkinson of Ellesmere Port said that about four o'clock on the afternoon in question, he apprehended the prisoner with the knife produced in his possession. He had to be taken by force to the police station. When charged, the prisoner admitted stabbing the prosecutor, but said, “Henry White was trying to stab him at the time”. The witness stated that the prisoner's relatives had for some time considered the prisoner insane, and his mother had complained to witness that the prisoner was always sharpening knives, while the prisoner's brother had been from home three days through fear of the prisoner. It was well known in the neighbourhood that the prisoner was mentally affected.

The bench committed the prisoner for trial at the sessions to be held in January next.

244 13 December 1881

SHOCKING DEATH AT BURNLEY Yesterday morning an operative, 20 years of age, named

Richard Heap, was charged at the Burnley Police Court with causing the death of his father, **Kemp Heap**, a boatman 53 years of age. It appears that the father and son went to the Cross Guns Inn, Gannow Street, on Saturday afternoon, and remained there for some time. They left to go home, and on the way quarrelled as to the route they should take. On arriving at the house in Gannow Lane, the prisoner threw his father down on the floor and kicked him several times in the chest, fracturing the man's ribs. The father became gradually worse, and died on Sunday night in consequence of the injuries he received. Prisoner was sober at the time, whilst the father was under the influence of drink. The bench remanded the case till Thursday. The inquest was formally opened yesterday afternoon, and adjourned until today (Tuesday).

245 14 December 1881

BRUTAL KICKING CASE IN BURNLEY – FATAL RESULT An adjourned inquiry was held at Burnley yesterday afternoon into the circumstances attending the death of **Kemp Heap**, a boatman 53 years of age, of 152 Gannow Lane, who was kicked by his son Richard, a factory operative, 21 years old, on Saturday afternoon, by which he received such injuries as ended in his death on Sunday night. From the evidence, it appeared that the two had been in a beerhouse in the afternoon. The son requested his father to go home, but the latter did not seem inclined to do so just at that moment. Prisoner took him by the arms and walked out with him. When on the road, the father sat down in the road, not being inclined to go. The son kicked him, and then took him by the head and leg and half dragged and carried him home. On arriving at the door, prisoner threw his father down on his right side, and kicked him several times in the chest, fracturing two ribs completely. The jagged end of one of the ribs penetrated the lung. Heap died on Sunday night from air dropsy, caused by the injuries. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Richard Heap, and the coroner made out his warrant accordingly.

246 17 December 1881

THE MANSLAUGHTER CASE AT BURNLEY At Burnley yesterday, Richard Heap, 20 years old, was charged with killing his father, **Kemp Heap**, a boatman aged 53. On Saturday, the prisoner fetched his father home from a beerhouse in Gannow Lane, and kicked him on the way. On arriving at the house, he kicked him in the chest and broke his ribs, causing his death. The prisoner was committed for trial for manslaughter.

247 21 December 1881

FATAL ACCIDENT An inquest was held at Tarleton on the body of **John Ashcroft**, aged 30 years, a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. He left Liverpool on Wednesday night last, which was very foggy, to go to Hesketh Bank, and on reaching Lathom he went to open the locks. After he had opened four, he was missed, and he was found in the canal, dead. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

248 24 December 1881

THE WEATHER – DENSE FOG IN MANCHESTER – LOSS OF FOUR LIVES Manchester and its suburbs were yesterday enveloped in a fog the like of which has not been experienced for many years. Early in the forenoon, objects within a few feet were not distinguishable, and before noon, matters became much worse, a darkness as that of night overshadowing the city. In all the places of business, the aid of gas had to be resorted to, but the lights seemed unable to penetrate the gloom, only showing, as it were, its intensity. Great inconvenience was caused to the street traffic. Vehicles of all kinds were compelled to move slowly, and in the more crowded thoroughfares the crossing of the roads was a task attended by considerable risk. The railway traffic was also carried on with difficulty. Trains to and from Manchester were unavoidably late, and in the vicinity of the stations, the reports of fog signals were incessant. Fortunately, however, so far as could be ascertained, no accident has occurred. The fog lifted a little about one o'clock, giving hopes of further improvement, but it soon afterwards again settled over the city, and remained until and

advanced hour of the evening, when the atmosphere became much clearer. A somewhat curious instance of the effect of the fog was that at the morning service at the Cathedral, the singers were almost unable to go through the service, and in the afternoon the service was altogether without the assistance of the choir. We regret to say that several fatal accidents are reported. When two girls named Stephens, aged about 17 and 19, factory operatives of Heywood View, Failsworth, employed at Mr James Etchell's and Mr Trevor's Mills, were going to their work about six o'clock, it is supposed they missed their way in attempting to cross Tan Yard Bridge and fell into the canal. Nothing was heard of an unusual character at the time by any of the passengers in the neighbourhood, and the loss of the girls was not noticed until some time later. As they did not appear at work at the ordinary hour, inquiries were made. Fearing that they might have fallen into the water, a diligent search was instituted, and unfortunately the worst fears were realised, for between eight and nine o'clock the dead bodies of the girls were found in the canal. The body of an aged woman and also that of a man have been pulled out of the same canal. The woman who has so unfortunately met her death was **Jane Taylor**, the wife of a boatman living on a boat which was moored near Church Street Bridge. It appeared that she went ashore to feed the horse and directly afterwards her husband heard her scream from the canal. He at once jumped into the water, but in consequence of the fog was unable to find her until too late. The man referred to is George Tickle, 54 years of age, who lived in Ancoats and was employed at the Crown Dye Works, Newton Heath. He left home to go to his work about half past five in the morning, and it is supposed that he also accidentally fell into the canal. His body was found near Hulme Hall Lane Bridge, Miles Platting.

249 31 December 1881

SAD CASE OF DROWNING On Tuesday evening the dead body of a man, at present unknown, was taken out of the Rochdale Canal near the Shears Hotel Lock, Newton Heath. The body was in two pieces having, it is believed, been caught by the lock gates when being closed. The head and upper portion were found about six o'clock by a canal boatman named **John Williams**. The legs and lower portion were discovered between the lock gates some hours later by **Henry Evans**, a night watchman in the employment of the Rochdale Canal Company. The body is apparently that of a man between 60 and 70 years of age, about 5 ft 7 in in height, dressed in a black cloth coat and dark tweed trousers, and wore an old pair of laced boots. He is supposed to be a tramp, and that during the fog which prevailed at the time, he missed his way and accidentally fell into the water. The body was removed to the Three Crowns Inn.

250 28 January 1882

SUSPECTED MURDER On Thursday **Isaac Gent**, boatman of Ilkestone, found the body of a man near the lock of a canal at Wollatton, near Nottingham. The police were informed of the discovery, and being removed from the water, the body showed marks, it is supposed, of foul play. The right side of the neck was much swollen, and there were marks of finger nails upon it, giving the appearance of a struggle. The deceased has not yet been identified. The police are making inquiries. No arrests have yet been made.

251 8 February 1882

DROWNING CASE On Monday evening at about eight o'clock, a boatman named **William Heywood**, alias "Tideswell Bill" fell into a lock of the canal at Marple and was drowned before he could be rescued. He was aged 50 years. He was assisting some boatmen, and got into the water during the darkness of the fog.

252 18 February 1882

A REMARKABLE CASE A curious case came before the Chester magistrates yesterday, when **Mary Rafferty** was charged with wandering about in a nude state on the previous night. The woman said she had been quarrelling with her husband, a boatman, and that he first stripped her naked and then carried her on the canal bank and left her. The prisoner could not be put in the dock,

and the magistrates granted a remand until clothes could be obtained for her from the workhouse.

253 4 March 1882

Benjamin Evans, a boatman, on Monday told some fishermen that he was going to drown himself in the Tow. They informed a constable who, following the deceased, found him standing in the water. Evans said his wife's misconduct had driven him to suicide, and told the policeman to stand off. The latter dashed at the deceased, who plunged into deep water. Here he faltered, and swam towards the shore ; but the heavy flood from the recent rains carried him away, the swirl making him helpless, and the same cause frustrating a rescue attempted in coracles. Deceased, whose wife lives with another man, attempted suicide by cutting his throat some time ago.

254 28 March 1882

A BOATMAN DROWNED On Sunday evening, the body of a man named **James Woodcock**, 35 years of age, of Whittle-le-Woods, was found in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at the top lock at Aspall, near Bolton. The deceased had been missing for several days. It is supposed that he fell into the water whilst in a state of intoxication. When last seen alive, he was on the canal bank, and he had then been drinking.

255 12 April 1882

Manchester County Police Court

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Thomas Wynne**, a boatman, was charged with having worked a horse in an unfit state. The horse, which was drawing two boats, was in a very bad condition being, it was stated, nothing but skin and bone. Sir John Mantell characterised the case as one of great cruelty, and fined the prisoner £3 and costs, in default two months imprisonment with hard labour, remarking that he wished he also had the power to order him a dozen strokes with the "cat".

256 20 May 1882

A gross case of cruelty was heard by the Runcorn magistrates on Monday. A canal boatman placed a horse suffering from mange in the stable of a Runcorn publican, whose ostler, William Cunningham, recommended that the animal should be rubbed with paraffin oil to cure the disease. The driver acted upon this advice, and then Cunningham applied a light to the animal's tail, the result being that the poor thing was so badly burned that it had to be destroyed. Cunningham was punished for his cruelty by being sent to gaol for two months, the magistrates refusing to impose a fine.

257 10 June 1882

CHILD STEALING AT DERBY On Monday at Derby, a boatman named **Joseph Thay** was charged on remand with enticing away and detaining James Howe, a boy under 10 years old. The boy stated that one day in December, he and three other boys went on to the canal bank and commenced playing. While there, a boat came up containing a lad and the prisoner, and Stafford inquired if they could have a ride. The boy said, "Yes" and witness, with two other boys, entered the boat. Stafford, witness's other companion, drove the horse. When they had gone some distance, they arrived near an iron bridge, and the two boys jumped out of the boat, but he was unable to do so. Prisoner was not up. Witness cried after his companions had gone, and was told by the boy in charge of the boat that he should not let him go, as he wanted a boy to mind his horse. When prisoner awoke he asked witness why he was crying. He replied that he wanted to go home to his mother, but prisoner said he wanted a boy to mind his horse. At night, prisoner told him to get off the boat and go home, but it was dark, and witness did not start for home. He slept under a hedge near the canal bank the whole of the first night, not having a blanket or any covering, and as it rained he was wet through. Next morning, prisoner asked him if he would drive the horse, and he drove it all day. During that day, the boy boiled some turnips, and that was all he had to eat. The second night, the horse was put into a stable, and witness had to remain there. While prisoner was gone for some tobacco, the boy put witness's head into the canal, and said he would throw him into

the water if he attempted to go away. Prisoner was committed for trial at the next Borough Quarter Sessions.

258 17 June 1882

Manchester City Sessions

SENTENCES Eight months imprisonment : **John Underhill**, 25, boatman, stealing from the person.

259 1 July 1882

SAVAGE AND BRUTAL ASSAULT UPON A WIFE At Southwark on Monday, **John Watteson**, 34, boatman, was brought before Mr Slade charged with committing a savage and brutal assault upon **Louisa Watteson**, his wife, by knocking her down and kicking her about the head and body. The complainant, whose head was bandaged, was in such a weak state that she was accommodated with a seat while giving her evidence. She said that she had been married five years and had three children. They lived at 91 Queen's Buildings at the rear of the court. On Sunday afternoon at three o'clock, the prisoner came home the worse for liquor and went to sleep. At five o'clock he woke, and wanted her to go for a walk. She went into the bedroom to get ready, when he followed her into the room and closed the door. He then said, "Now I have got you", and struck her several blows on the head and knocked her down. Whilst on the floor, he kicked her about the head. He afterwards seized her and threw her out of the room. She got up and fetched a constable and gave him into custody. In answer to Mr Slade, she said he had frequently ill used her almost as bad, and she had refused to live with him any longer. Mr Slade sentenced the prisoner to six months imprisonment, and adjudged a separation ordering him to pay his wife 15s a week.

260 1 July 1882

Manchester County Police Court

ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO DROWN A CHILD **Thomas Cox**, boatman, of 102 Derwent Street, Salford, was charged with attempting to drown his daughter, six years of age, by throwing her into the Irwell at Barton. The previous afternoon, prisoner was observed by two men abusing his wife. The child was standing a short distance away, crying. He was seen to pick up the child and throw it into the river. The men ran towards the spot, but before they got there, prisoner jumped in and pulled the child out. Prisoner said that the affair was an accident. The child was no worse beyond the wetting. Prisoner was remanded for a week.

261 4 July 1882

Salford Hundred Quarter Sessions

SENTENCES Acquitted : **John Hyde**, 58, boatman, felony at Droylsden.

262 10 July 1882

Salford Borough Police Court

A CURIOUS CASE **William Fisher**, boatman of no settled residence, was charged on remand, before Mr Makinson, with stealing a number of articles to the value of £4, the property of John Apsley, who lived at Joseph Street, Pendleton, on the 30th ult. About nine weeks ago, the prosecutor went to live in Joseph Street, and engaged the prisoner's wife as his housekeeper. On Thursday week, the prisoner was seen by a person named Harriet Renshaw, who lived next door to the house in question, in the vicinity, and during the day he effected an entrance by bursting the door open. The prisoner afterwards brought a cart and loaded it with the furniture (the prosecutor and Mrs Fisher being away) and said he intended to sell the goods before he had done. Accused gave a number of articles away, and sold a bed and bedstead for 11s. Mr Bennett, who appeared for the defence, said that prosecutor had run away with the prisoner's wife, and that the furniture belonged to Fisher. The prisoner was committed to the sessions for trial.

263 17 July 1882

Manchester Summer Assizes

AN EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE **Thomas Cox**, 26, boatman, was arraigned on a charge of having attempted to drown his daughter, a little girl, at Barton-on-Irwell on the 29th June, with intent to murder her.

Mr McKeand prosecuted and Mr Foard defended the prisoner.

The accused is the master of a barge travelling on the river Irwell, and on the day named in the indictment, he and his wife were quarrelling on board the barge. Prisoner struck his wife, and the child, who was standing near, cried out, when the prisoner caught hold of her and threw her into the river. Two men who witnessed the occurrence called out that they would give the prisoner into custody, whereupon he jumped into the water and rescued the child.

His Lordship expressed surprise that on the evidence the prisoner should have been indicted for such a serious offence, and directed the jury to acquit him, remarking that he should have been charged with an offence of less magnitude. Prisoner was accordingly acquitted.

264 27 July 1882

Chester Summer Assizes

THE RIGOUR OF THE LAW **George Sumner** (19), a boatman, was charged with having at Church Lawton on the 7th June last committed an unnatural crime. The evidence is unfit for publication. Although the judge's summing was favourable to the prisoner, he was found guilty and sentenced to ten years penal servitude, the judge remarking that the law allowed him to pass no lighter sentence for an offence of that kind.

265 29 July 1882

INQUESTS IN MANCHESTER An inquest was held as to the death of **Maria Atkinson**, 10 years of age, daughter of **James Atkinson**, a boatman formerly of Rhodes Heath near Sandbach. It seems that on Friday week, Atkinson, who is a canal boatman, was engaged on his vessel in the first lock, Pott Street, Manchester, when his daughter fell into the water. An alarm being raised, efforts were made to rescue the girl, but proved unavailing, when a youth named Peter Farrell, 17 years of age, dived into the canal and brought the girl from the bottom, stating that he found a heavy stone on her dress, which he had to roll off before he could release her. It was stated that Farrell has been the means of bringing seven drowning persons ashore from several places in this locality, four being adults. Of these, five recovered consciousness through his instrumentality. The jury added to their verdict of "Accidental drowning" a recommendation to the Royal Humane Society to make official recognition of the great bravery shown by Farrell on this and previous occasions.

266 29 July 1882

HEARTLESS INDIFFERENCE At a coroner's inquest on Thursday at Bloomfield, Tipton, on the body of **David Seabridge**, a boatman's son, who was drowned whilst fishing, George Cresswell, another boy, said he tried to rescue Seabridge and, being unable, called the attention of a man and woman who were passing. They shouted back that they were not going to bother about him. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death" and said the couple's conduct was inhuman.

267 5 September 1882

Salford Borough Police Court

THEFT OF AN OVERCOAT FROM A THEATRE **James Igo**, boatman, 8 Factory Lane, Salford, was charged before Mr Makinson, stipendiary, with stealing an overcoat from the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, value 30s, on the 2nd inst. **Maria Igo alias Mary Russell** was charged with receiving the same, knowing it to have been stolen. On Saturday evening, prisoner was at the Prince of Wales's Theatre in Liverpool Street, and in front of him was a man and a woman, the latter sitting on an overcoat. The play terminated about half past 10 o'clock and, there being a general rush to get outside, the man and woman remained sitting. During this time, the coat was drawn from under the woman by Igo. He took it home, and a little before 11 o'clock the same night, the coat was pawned for 6s 6d by the female prisoner. The male prisoner, who stated that he was the worse for drink and found the coat on the floor, was sentenced to one months imprisonment with hard labour, while Maria Igo was discharged.

268 4 October 1882

City Police Court

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE **Martha Smith** was charged, on remand, with

attempting to destroy herself and murder her child, Elizabeth Ellen, four years of age, by jumping with the child in her arms into the Rochdale Canal, near Dale Street, on Friday last. Police-constables William Vean and Christopher Read (C Division) deposed to seeing prisoner deliberately jump into the water on the evening of the day named. She was drunk at the time, and used some foul expression which they did not hear as she sprang from the towing-path. With the assistance of James Page and a baker named Ward, she and the child were pulled out and removed to the Infirmary. The woman had been first seen walking on the path in an excited condition by Ward, Page and another, as they were leaving the People's Concert Hall and, fearing she contemplated self destruction, Ward and Page went for the police. As they were returning with the officers, the woman leaped into the water. No one jumped in after her. They got her and the girl out by lying on the ground close to the edge and pulling them out. The water was over six feet deep. Mr Bentliff, who appeared for the prisoner, said his client was a married woman, the wife of a boatman, and had been the mother of nine children, the eldest of whom was 27 years of age. She had always been an honest sober woman. On Friday night, being quite sober, she was returning from Ancoats (where she had been with her husband) to their canal boat by the towing path, when the three witnesses, who had told the bench they were returning from the People's Concert Hall, met her, and attempted familiarities with her. In trying to get away from them, she accidentally fell into the canal and caught the child as she did so, in trying to save herself. The police officers, recalled, said the woman made no complaint as to the conduct of the young men when rescued from the water, but on the contrary, cursed them (the officers) as they were removing her and the girl to the Infirmary. This was further confirmed by Inspector Pigott, who said that on the following day, when sober, she made no charge of that kind. The Chairman, having ascertained from Mr Bentliff that he had no evidence to prove the charge which he had brought against the young men, told him that it was the opinion of the bench that he had acted very improperly. As a professional man, he ought not to have made such charges without evidence to support it. It appeared to him that if it had not been for the young men, the woman's life and the life of the child would have been lost. The prisoner, who said she reserved her defence, was committed for trial at the assizes on two charges (1) with trying to commit suicide; (2) with trying to destroy the life of her child.

269 21 November 1882

COLLISION AND FATAL ACCIDENT IN THE BRIDGEWATER CANAL At the Manchester City Coroner's Court yesterday, before Mr Sydney Smelt, deputy coroner, an inquest was held relative to the death of a young man named **Joseph Hinde**, 17 years of age, a boatman lately residing at 11 Shaw Street, Runcorn. It appeared from the evidence that deceased was engaged as deck hand on board the *Stretford* steam tug, and was on board that vessel on the 9th inst as she was proceeding along the canal towing several flats. As they approached Manchester, and when in the neighbourhood of Stretford, they met another steam tug, the *Heywood*, having also several flats in tow. A very strong wind was blowing at the time, rendering the flats somewhat unmanageable, and those in rear of the *Stretford* were blown to the side of the canal opposite the towing-path, the side which the *Heywood* ought to have taken. The *Heywood* had just passed one of the "stops" or narrow places in the canal when, seeing the effect of the wind on the *Stretford's* flats, she tried, after making an attempt to get past on the wrong side, to regain her proper course, when a collision occurred. The *Stretford* got between the *Heywood* and the first boat she was towing, when the rope connecting the tug with the flat caught the funnel of the *Stretford* and knocked it down, the deceased being also carried down into the coal bunkers, receiving such injuries that he died in the Infirmary on Sunday. Every effort on the part of both crews appeared to have been made to prevent any accident. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

270 6 January 1883

Cheshire Quarter Sessions

The adjourned quarter sessions for the county of Chester were held at Knutsford Court House on Wednesday, Mr Horatio Lloyd (deputy chairman) presiding in the first court, and Mr J Wood in the second.

Ann Bentley, aged 58, boatwoman, indicted for stealing two carriage rugs, the property of William Wood at Odd Rode, was acquitted.

Charles Eyes, aged 19, labourer, for stealing a quantity of lead, sugar &c, the property of **William Cawley**, a boatman at Weston, near Runcorn, three months hard labour.

271 8 February 1883

FOUND DROWNED Mr Sydney Smelt, city deputy coroner, held an inquest yesterday relative to the death of Maria White, 38 years of age, wife of William White, lately residing at 38 Woburn Place, Mount Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock. The evidence showed that on Monday afternoon, about three o'clock, a boatman named **Joseph Good** was conducting his vessel along the Rochdale Canal near Minshull Street, in this city, when he saw the body of the deceased in the water. He gave information to the police, who removed the corpse to the Fairfield Street Police Station, where it was afterwards identified. The husband stated that the last time he saw his wife was on Friday night last, at which time she said she was going to look for work. She had been low spirited for some time previously. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

272 10 February 1883

Manchester City Sessions

SENTENCES Eighteen months imprisonment : **James Proudlove**, 39, boatman, for indecently assaulting Mary Jane Martin on January 8.

Twelve months imprisonment : **William Morgan**, 28, boatman, for stealing, on January 13, 8lbs of meat, the property of James Jackson.

273 13 March 1883

A CHILD FATALLY BURNT IN SALFORD Yesterday, Mr F Price held an inquest at the Black Horse, the Crescent, Salford, respecting the death of **Emma Cousin**, five years of age, daughter of **James Cousin**, canal boatman, residing at 10 Smith's Yard, Cow Lane, Salford. On Friday afternoon the deceased, with two younger children, was left in the house about five minutes. The mother had gone out, and on her return the door was shut, and there was a smell of something burning. The deceased was subsequently found with her clothes on fire. The fire was extinguished, and she was removed to the Salford Royal Hospital where, in answer to her mother, she said she was lighting a piece of paper, and it set her frock on fire. She died later in the day. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

274 28 March 1883

Manchester County Police Court

BRUTAL ASSAULTS A powerfully built fellow named **James Davis**, a boatman, was charged on remand with being on enclosed premises for an unlawful purpose. About one o'clock on the morning of the 20th instant, Police-constable Gresham saw the prisoner in the garden at the rear of Mr Horner's house, Beechfield, Talbot Road, Old Trafford. He followed him, and prisoner then dropped a bag he was carrying. The officer seized the man, and a desperate struggle ensued. Prisoner attempted to seize Gresham by the lower part of his body, but failing this, he threw the officer down, and literally destroyed his uniform. Gresham was compelled to draw his truncheon, and prisoner had to be stunned before he could get him to the police station. He was now committed to prison for three months, with hard labour.

275 29 March 1883

Correspondence

THE CANAL BOATS ACT

To the Editor of the Manchester Courier

Sir – During the last few weeks two registered canal boats have been conveying smallpox to different parts of the country. In one case, a boatwoman with two children were left at Leighton suffering from this terrible disease, and the boatman continued his course to this district, where another child suffering from the same malady was put off and sent to Leicester. A few days later, the doctor pronounced another child in the cabin to be ill of the same complaint, but the boat moved

on. In the case of the other boat, two children were left at Berkhamstead ill of smallpox, and the boat, with two children in the cabin, moved forward into Staffordshire. If the time should ever come when the Canal Boat Acts Amendment Bill I am humbly promoting – and which has been before Parliament during the last two sessions – becomes law, such cases as the above will be impossible, and the 60,000 canal and gypsy children of school age growing up in black midnight ignorance will have been put upon a step that leads from darkness to light, and from hell to heaven, with little cost or inconvenience to either boat owners or boatwomen. Shall it be so? Yours, &c
GEORGE SMITH of Coalville
Welton, Daventry, March 28 1883.

276 12 April 1883

Salford Hundred Quarter Sessions

SENTENCES Six months imprisonment and two years police supervision : **Joseph McDonald**, 23, boatman, obtaining 4d by false pretences from J T Cross at Stretford on the 24th ult.

277 1 May 1883

Manchester County Police Court

A WARNING TO CANAL BOATMEN A canal boatman named **James Aspinall**, residing at Burscough near Ormskirk, was charged before Sir John Mantell and Mr T Dickins with working a horse whilst in an unfit condition. Police-constable Davies saw the prisoner at Barton on Saturday with the animal, and in consequence of the state it was in, he took the prisoner into custody. It was proved that the horse was suffering from several wounds, was in a most emaciated condition, and totally unfit for work. Sir John Mantell said it was about the worst case of cruelty that had come under his observation, and he committed the prisoner for a month with hard labour. He was quite sick of fining these boatmen.

278 12 May 1883

On Thursday, a man whose name is unknown travelled from Sheffield by the 3.30 express on the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway, which was not due to stop until it reached Rotherham. **Charles Swales**, a boatman of Kilnhurst, who travelled in the same compartment, noticed the man open the carriage door. Swales shut the door again, and took his seat at the opposite end of the carriage, where some ladies were seated, not liking the movements of his neighbour. As soon as he had done this, the man opened the door again, and leaped from the train, which was then going at a rapid rate. Information was given to the officials at the Rotherham station, and Mr Left, Mr Williams and staff returned with the train in search of the man. They found him near Deadman's Bridge with his skull fractured and one of his arms broken. The man, who was booked from Sheffield to Rotherham, was removed to the Rotherham Hospital, and lies in a precarious condition.

279 7 July 1883

Shortly after seven o'clock on Wednesday night, a man named Daniel Parry, a miller residing at 8 Smeaton Street, Westminster Road, attempted suicide by jumping into the river Mersey, from the Prince's Pierhead, Liverpool. He was rescued by a young man named William Metcalf, living at 55 Upper Beau Street, and a boatman named **William Gregory**, and taken to the Receiving House, where he was attended to by Mr Rowlands and thoroughly recovered from his immersion. He was afterwards taken to the Main Bridewell and locked up. Parry is a man about 40 years of age, and from statements he made, it would appear that he had domestic unhappiness arising from a quarrel with his wife, from whom he had been parted for some time. He stated that his house was barred against him, and having nowhere to go, he attempted to commit suicide.

280 11 July 1883

SUPPOSED CHILD MURDER IN SALFORD Mr F Price, district coroner, held an inquiry yesterday at the Royal Thistle Inn, Cannon Street, Salford, respecting the death of a newly born male child. About half past 12 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, information was brought to the

Pendleton police station by a boatman giving the name of **George Lewis**, that he had found the body of a child. Police-constable Markland accompanied Lewis to the Cock Robin Bridge near to the Pendleton Station, where they found on the embankment on the canal, in a piece of sacking, the dead body of a child with a half brick inside the wrapping. The body was removed to the Silk Street mortuary. A *post mortem* examination was made by Dr Morris of the Crescent, Salford, who stated that death was caused through neglect and exposure immediately after birth. The child had lived probably 24 hours, and the organs were such that had it had proper care and attention it might have lived. The parcel must have been thrown over the bridge to the canal, but had fallen on the embankment. Mr Superintendent Donohoe of the Salford police, stated that he had found the mother of the child and, from what he could gather from a witness he had, the mother of the child was the daughter of a person living in Pendleton. On Friday morning, she was delivered of an illegitimate child, and calling her mother into the room, the infant was wrapped in the sacking produced. The elder woman was then seen to throw it over Cock Robin Bridge, and when asked what the parcel contained, said it was a cat. He (Mr Donohoe) had only just received this information, and the mother and grandmother were now in custody. He asked for an adjournment. Several jurymen concurred in this request, and the inquiry was adjourned until Wednesday next.

281 14 July 1883

DROWNED WHILST BATHING Mr Sydney Smelt, deputy city coroner, held an inquiry on Monday at the coroner's court respecting the death of Charles Maloney, seven years of age, son of John Maloney, tailor, residing at 44 Foundry Street, Manchester, and James Burns, six years of age, son of James Burns, market porter, 19 Foundry Street. On Sunday afternoon, the two deceased were playing on the towing-path of the canal near London Road. Some few minutes afterwards, a man named **Frederick Bury**, lock-keeper, saw two suits of clothes on the path, but the owners were missing. A search was instituted, and Police-constable Read, with the lock-keeper, dragged the canal, when the bodies of the two lads were discovered some yards from the bank. Life was extinct in both cases. The bodies were removed to Fairfield Street mortuary, where they were subsequently identified. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

282 19 July 1883

THE ALLEGED CHILD MURDER IN SALFORD Mr F Price, district coroner, yesterday held the adjourned inquiry at the Royal Thistle, Cannon Street, Salford, respecting the death of an infant male child who, it is alleged, was killed by its mother and grandmother. James Parkinson, chapel keeper, said that on the 6th inst, he was on Cock Robin Bridge, Pendleton, when he saw a woman throw something over the bridge. He asked the woman if she was drowning the cat, and she said, "Yes, come away". They afterwards looked over the bridge and saw a parcel lying on the canal bank, about a foot from the water. He now identified the elder prisoner Johnson as the person who threw the parcel over the bridge. On Saturday the 7th, a boatman named **George Lewis** of Lymm, Cheshire, found the parcel, and opening it, he found the body of an infant child. He gave information to the police, and from what he heard, Sergeant Howard went to the house of Elizabeth Johnson, 39 Cook Street, Pendleton. He asked the elder prisoner where she got that parcel from she threw over Cock Robin Bridge the previous Friday. He went into the house, and the elder woman said, pointing to her daughter, "That is my daughter. The parcel which I threw over the bridge was the child belonging to her. She is a cripple, and she called me upstairs on Friday morning. She pointed to a mug, and said, "Mother, look what's here". I looked in the mug and I saw it was a child. I took it out, and found it was dead. I was frightened, and I did not know what to do with it. It remained in the room until the afternoon. I then tied it up in some wrapping, and threw it over the bridge, and I thought nobody should know nothing about it". He took both prisoners into custody, and on being charged at the station with concealing the birth of the child, the elder prisoner said she was very sorry for what had happened. The child was dead when she found it. Howard also charged the younger prisoner with causing the death of the child, and she said, "I did not cause its death ; it was dead when it came". The Coroner said that the jury had nothing whatever to do

with the concealment of birth. That was a subject entirely beyond the scope of that enquiry. What they had to ascertain was whether the child was born alive, and what had been the cause of its death. After being cautioned by the Coroner, Emma Johnson admitted that she was the mother of the child, but that it was still born. Her mother knew nothing about it until after the child was born. Superintendent Donohoe declined to cross-examine the younger prisoner at present. After some consideration in private, the jury returned an open verdict. During the day, the two prisoners were brought up at the police court, and remanded on the capital charge. A large crowd had collected round the place where the inquest was held, which immediately dispersed after the two prisoners had been removed in a cab.

283 23 July 1883

A WOMAN FOUND IN THE IRWELL Mr F Price held an inquest on Saturday morning at the Royal Thistle, Salford, respecting the death of a woman about 24 years of age who was found in the river Irwell. On Friday morning about six o'clock, a boatman named **William Booth**, in the employ of the Bridgewater Navigation Company, was near the racecourse, Salford, when he observed something floating in the water. He took it out, and found it to be the dead body of a woman. The face was free from discolouration except about the eyes, which were black. The police were informed of the discovery, and the body was removed to the Silk Street mortuary, but has not been identified. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

284 4 August 1883

THE CHARGE OF ATTEMPTING TO DROWN A WIFE **Richard Barrow**, a boatman, was on Tuesday afternoon charged at the Chorley Police Court with attempting to drown his wife. On Tuesday last week, prisoner, who was in drink, was about to beat the horse drawing the boat, when his wife released the rope to which it was attached from the mast, and it galloped away. She went to the prisoner, who said, "I'll teach thee to do that", and pushed her into the canal. She held him by the arm and dragged him into the water, where they struggled together. She fell under the water, and the prisoner knelt on her, but she managed to release herself and get out of the water, when she slapped him in the face. Mrs Swainson witnessed the struggle from her garden, and called out to the prisoner that he was murdering the woman. Prisoner's wife ran along the canal bank, and met a constable, to whom she reported the affair. The woman now stated that her husband had no intention of killing her, and pleaded hard for him to be let off. The offence was reduced to one of common assault, and the prisoner was fined 10s 6d and costs.

285 7 August 1883

SHOCKING DISCOVERY AT MODE WHEEL About half past six o'clock on Sunday evening, a boatman named **Abraham Lovatt**, when near Mode Wheel, Salford, found the dead body of a man in the river, near to the grid which keeps the refuse from the large water wheel there. The body was much decomposed, and appeared to have been in the water for a considerable length of time. Lovatt informed Police-constable Denney of the Salford police of the discovery, and the latter had the body removed to the deadhouse at the workhouse. The deceased appeared to have been about 58 years of age, and was dressed in a dark suit of clothes, had on a broad leather belt with brass buckle, dark woollen socks, and iron bound clogs. An inquest will be held today.

286 17 August 1883

A MAN FOUND IN THE RIVER IRWELL About two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, a lock-keeper named **Church**, in the employ of the Bridgewater Navigation Company, observed the body of a man floating in the Irwell, near Trafford Road Bridge, Salford. He communicated with the authorities, and Police-constable Hockton, assisted by the boatman, got the body out of the water and removed it to the Silk Street mortuary. The deceased, who had not up to yesterday afternoon been identified, appeared to have been in the water several days. He appeared to be a man between 50 and 60 years of age, was dressed in a dark blue cloth suit, had on a brown overcoat, and was of

rather stout build. On the third finger of his left hand is a massive ring with the letter "G" inscribed in the centre of the stone. On the smaller digit is a plain gold ring. In his pockets were found a silver Geneva watch, a set of false teeth, spectacles in a metal case, a pair of solitaires, and a pair of kid gloves. The body now lies at the Silk Street mortuary, pending the coroner's inquest, and awaiting identification.

287 6 October 1883

PETITIONS FOR LIQUIDATION BY ARRANGEMENT **W Middleton**, Rotherham, boatman.

288 16 October 1883

THE ALLEGED MURDER OF A WOMAN IN LIVERPOOL A Liverpool evening paper has the following :- A singular circumstance in connection with this diabolical crime is that shortly after its commission, the perpetrator was secured by two men who had at the time no knowledge of the matter. One of the men was Walter Stebbin, in the employ of Messrs Littler, Atkins and McVitie. He is an intelligent man, who is employed partly as yardman by that firm of cement merchants. He lives in a small cottage at the bottom of a dark alley leading from Leeds Street, and known as Tingle Peg Lane. It will be remembered that it was down this lane that one of the Fenians connected with the Town Hall outrage was pursued when chased by the police some two years ago. Stebbin's history is best told in his own words. He said when questioned last night :- I had been out with the wife on Saturday night making some purchases, and at half past ten o'clock I got to the bottom of the lane, and was surprised to find a man stuck fast in the spikes at the top of the gate leading to Jackson's coalyard, which is just by my house, and about 70 yards from where the woman was murdered. I asked him what he was doing there, and he said, "I am trying to get from here to meet Crutchie". Crutchie is a one legged fellow, named **Jemmy Lang**. He is a flatman employed by Mr Littler, and fetches coal from Wigan. I knew that we did not expect him home until Monday or Tuesday, and so I said, "What do you know about Crutchie?" He said, "He is a friend of mine ; I expect seeing him when I get into the street". I said, "I think you are telling me a lie, as I am sure he is at Wigan loading coal". I, however, believed he knew Crutchie, and I put up my hand to his foot, pushed him up, disentangled him, and he dropped to the ground, a distance of 11 ft. I looked closely at him after picking him up, but did not know him. He shrank from me, and went up the lane crying out in a squeaking voice, Crutchie. Suspecting that something was wrong – I had heard no screams, bear in mind – I followed him as he slunk up the lane, and overtook him. I asked him where he was going to, and he then commenced to run down Leeds Street and up Prussia Street. I saw Philip McGarry, a man who works for Mr Jackson, and called on him to follow me, and I then gave chase after the fugitive. We caught him in Prussia Street, when he had run about 200 yards. I put my hand on his shoulder, and said, "What have you been doing?" He then said, "Well, if you can believe me, the men have knocked me about, robbed me of my money, and they threw me in the canal". McGarry also got hold of him, and was going to strike him, but I thought he had had enough and we, believing his story, then let him go, and he disappeared in the direction of Plumb Street, and that was the last I saw of him. I forgot to tell you one thing. When I had hold of his arm, some boys came up. One of them seemed to know him, and addressed him as Walter. He remarked that it was rather strange to see two Walters together. I could pick him out of 30 men this night, and only wish I had known what he had been after. He was about 5ft 4in in height, of fair build, with square shoulders, and he had a slight darkish moustache. He wore a short pilot coat, black trousers and a "bucco" hat, and he looked like a fireman. He had a thin face, and was deathly pale when I had hold of him. He was covered with mud and saturated with water, some of which ran down my sleeve when I was helping him off the gate. The man McGarry corroborated the statement of Stebbin, and said he would know the man if he were placed among a million others.

[The accused was Lewis Parry, and the victim Susannah Hutton. The killing took place on the canal bank]

289 30 October 1883

City Police Court

MATRIMONY ON THE BRIDGEWATER CANAL **Elizabeth Sandbrook**, a young woman, wife of **John Sandbrook**, a canal boatman, was charged, before Mr F J Headlam, with attempting to destroy herself in the Bridgewater Canal on Saturday night. Prisoner admitted the offence, and promised she would not attempt a like act again if set at liberty. Why she had thrown herself into the canal was in order that her husband, seeing her in that position, might be induced to take her on board again and allow her to live with him as his wife. As it was intimated that the husband was about to take out a summons against his wife for using threats, Mr Headlam decided to hear the whole case. It was then stated by the husband that he was married to the prisoner about six years ago. On the 3rd of the present month, she left him, and committed adultery with the mate of his own vessel, of which he was the master, cohabiting with him for some days. He made the discovery at Birkenhead, and thereupon determined not to live with her again. His vessel traded between Birkenhead, Liverpool and Manchester on the Bridgewater Canal. On Saturday night, while lying in the canal at Manchester, prisoner entered the cabin at midnight, while he was asleep, and when he awoke she was standing with a lamp over his breast, and threatened to take his life. He got up, hastily dressed himself, pulled the boat ashore, fetched a male witness in order to see that no undue violence was used on his part, and he then carried his wife on shore, telling her that he refused to have her on board or live with her ; she then jumped into the canal, from which she was rescued by the witness and given into the custody of the police. He was now afraid of his life. Mr Headlam : Why? Has she ever done anything to you to make you afraid of her? Complainant : No, but she threatened to kill me on Saturday night, and she has said that she spent 7s in securing the services of two men and three women to assist her. This statement having been corroborated, the prisoner, in answer to the charge, said that the reason she left her husband was because, on the 3rd instant, he had offered her to the mate, as he was tired of her, and said the mate might try her for half a voyage. [Laughter]. Her husband even offered the mate a “golden sovereign” if he would take her. They quarrelled, and she went ashore, and was out till after one o'clock, when she went back to the boat, and asked her husband whether he would take her on board, give her money to go home to her friends, or allow her a certain sum of money per week to live upon, but he said he would not do one or the other. She had not at that time committed adultery. Mr Headlam said prisoner must find two sureties of £50 each to be of good behaviour or go to prison for three months. She was then removed.

290 6 November 1883

Manchester Winter Assizes

STEALING TIMBER **James Catton**, 29, boatman, and **John Carroll**, 30, boatman, were charged with stealing 17cwt of timber from canal boats which were being unloaded at a wharf on the Ashton Canal in Great Ancoats Street, Manchester, on the 20th October. Mr Sington prosecuted, and Mr Blair defended Catton. The wood belonged to George Satterthwaite, and consisted of deal ends, to be used for firewood. Prisoners were engaged in unloading the wood, and took the opportunity to steal a quantity of it. The prisoners were found guilty, and Carroll admitted a previous conviction for felony. They were sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour.

291 24 November 1883

An inquest was held on Monday at Newtown on the body of **Richard Jones**, aged 15, son of a boatman on the Shropshire Union Canal, who was drowned in the canal. It appeared that the father sent the boy on Saturday morning for a pint of rum to a public house two miles away, and as the deceased did not return, the father went to look for him, and found his hat and the rum bottle in the canal. On dragging the canal, the boy was found drowned. The bottle was corked, but half the contents had gone, and it seemed the deceased had drunk more than half a pint of rum and, becoming intoxicated, had fallen into the canal. A verdict was returned of “Found drowned, caused by taking too much drink”.

292 29 November 1883

Manchester County Police Court

THE POACHING AFFRAY AT TRAFFORD PARK **John Sheldon**, boatman ; Noah Mottram, labourer ; Robert Moss, labourer ; and John T Penson, baker, all residing at Macclesfield, were charged on remand, before Mr J S Mayson and Mr Cooke, with poaching on the morning of Wednesday week. Mr W Cobbett prosecuted and Mt Alderson defended Moss. From the statement of Mr Cobbett, it appeared that the prisoners were found poaching at night, armed, on land in the occupation of Mr Lambert, one of Sir Humphrey de Trafford's tenants. Just outside Trafford Park, on what is called the Home Farm, and near to the Worsley Canal, there is a covert called Atten's Wood, which is situated on the same side of the canal as the towing-path. Between the wood and the canal, there is one field only, but it is of considerable width. From the boundary fence to the towing-path, there are fences running transversely up to the wood. On the night of the 20th inst, or early on the morning of the 21st, five keepers and watchers were lying concealed inside the boundary fence of the wood, on the lookout for any poachers who might put in an appearance. Shortly before one o'clock in the morning, they saw a gang of seven men, amongst whom were the four prisoners, coming up the fields from the direction of Trafford Park. They passed through the park into the fields occupied by Mr Lambert, but before they got into them, they armed themselves with sticks and large stones, to be used as weapons in case of attack or otherwise. Having thus equipped themselves, they came forward to the boundary fence of the wood and at once prepared to secure any hares or rabbits that might be on the move. To get those that came out of the wood, they placed four or five nets along the boundary fence. They then appeared to have adopted the usual practice of moving about in order to frighten any rabbits or hares into their hiding places, and thus they would run at the nets and become entangled in the meshes. The keepers for some time watched what was being done. Three of the men remained in the field and the other four went some 200 yards down the wood. The keepers then rushed out, and a struggle ensued. Some of the men offered a strong resistance, the prisoner Moss being the most determined. He struck a keeper, and the latter quickly retaliated. One of the keepers was also disabled, but they succeeded in capturing three of the men, and a fourth was afterwards taken to the Old Trafford station, he having fallen into the hands of Police-constable Gill. The remainder escaped on the canal bank. Several witnesses were called who identified the prisoners as being concerned in the affray. Two of them, Mottram and Sheldon, were seen to throw stones, in addition to using their sticks, but one of the men who escaped inflicted the greatest injury to a keeper, who was struck by a stone which he threw. The struggle was a severe one. Two of the prisoners, Moss and Mottram, appeared in court with their heads bandaged up, apparently having been severely punished. The keepers secured the nets, stones and sticks, and also some half dozen rabbits which had been caught. Police-constable Gill said that a little after one o'clock on the morning of the 22nd instant, he saw two men running on the canal bank, one of whom was Penson. He apprehended the latter, but the other man escaped. Police-constable Smith said he charged Sheldon, Mottram and Moss with night poaching. Sheldon replied, "We've come to the wrong place, I think". [A laugh]. The other men made no reply. Penson was charged by Gill, and he replied that he would have to be tried for it. Prisoners were all committed for trial at the sessions, the question of bail being deferred till today.

293 30 November 1883

GREAT FIRE AT CHESTER

DESTRUCTION OF THE SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL COMPANY'S OFFICES Late last night, a fire broke out on the fine pile of buildings occupied as offices by the Shropshire Union Canal Company, abutting on the Shropshire Union Canal at Chester. The fire was first seen by the wife of the boatman on board the *Condor*. The night watchman, Jackson, was informed, and a messenger was immediately dispatched to the engine station of the Chester Fire Brigade, and in a very brief space of time, two manual engines were at work. The fire, when discovered, was raging in the upper offices, the building consisting of three storeys, and in less than half an hour the flames had obtained a complete grip of the north end of the building, and began backing towards the south, driving the firemen who had pluckily clambered on to the roof before them. Ultimately the roof fell

in with a tremendous crash, sending up myriads of sparks and creating a brilliant scene, the night being very cloudy and dark. Water was found in abundance, and the energies of the firemen at the time of dispatching this message at 11.30 were confined to preventing the extension of the conflagration to the store houses adjoining, which contain immense quantities of oil and other highly combustible materials, in this there is every probability that they will prove successful. Ample assistance was at hand to secure books, papers and valuable documents which were hurriedly pitched out and gathered into sacks for safety. The Shropshire Union Canal Company is worked by the London and North Western Railway Company. The offices, which are very extensive, it being the company's headquarters, are obviously doomed to destruction. Three persons fell into the canal during the conflagration, but were rescued. The fire is burning itself out, extending from the top towards the basement.

294 1 January 1884

DROWNING CASE IN MANCHESTER The deputy city coroner (Mr S Smelt) held an inquiry yesterday into the cause of death of **Peter Worthington**, a canal boatman, lately residing at 9 West Fleet Street, Salford, who was drowned under the following circumstances. It was stated that about two pm on Friday, deceased, who was 49 years of age, was seen to climb over some wooden fencing in front of the warehouse of Messrs Thompson, McKay and Co, Castlefield. The fence abuts on the canal. A moment afterwards a splash was heard, and Mr W Loyn, who had seen deceased in the act of climbing, saw that he had fallen into the canal ; he got assistance, and although deceased was only under water about three minutes, and every means taken to restore animation, death ensued. A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned.

295 5 January 1884

THE END OF A "FAMOUS EATER" An inquest was held by Mr Bairstow, coroner, on Thursday morning, at the King's Head, Bingley, respecting the death of **Stephen Lund**, a boatman, who was found dead in bed on Sunday morning at a house in Bingley. Deceased has been known for some years past as a "famous eater". He has frequently taken wagers and made exhibition of his eating powers, eating as much at one sitting as seven ordinary men could demolish. He was also distinguished for the enormous strength of his jaw, and he has been known to lift great weights by his teeth. He ailed nothing up to going to bed on Saturday night. A *post mortem* examination was made by two medical men, Dr Croke and Dr Craig, which showed that the internal organs of the deceased were in an advanced state of disease, the lungs, liver and kidneys being in such a state that the medical men were surprised that the man had lived so long. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

296 5 January 1884

An inquest was held at Little Leigh on Wednesday on the body of **Alice Beach**, 10 years of age, who was drowned in the river Weaver at Acton Bridge. The deceased was the daughter of a boatman, and was sent by her mother on New Year's Day to get some water. She overbalanced and fell from the boat into the water. The father hearing her cries jumped in , but being seized with cramp, was unable to render assistance. A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned.

297 24 January 1884

SHOCKING ACCIDENT TO A CANAL BOATMAN Yesterday, Mr F Price, district coroner, held an inquest at the Kings Arms, Salford, respecting the death of **Charles Woodcock**, a canal boatman 66 years of age, who recently resided at 29 Sidmouth Street, Bloom Street, Salford. The deceased was employed by Messrs T C Faulkner and Co, carriers, Manchester, and on the 12th inst he went to his work at Castlefield, Manchester, where he said he was going to unload his boat which was laden with cotton. Whilst engaged in doing so, by means of a chain, and hoisting the cotton into a warehouse adjoining the canal, he got his hand fast between a bale of cotton and the chain. He was drawn up for some distance, when he fell on to the side of the boat, and afterwards into the water. A

man named Frederick Wilkinson jumped into the canal and rescued the deceased, when it was found he had a serious wound on the head. He was at once removed to the Manchester Infirmary, and subsequently to his residence, where a medical man had been in attendance up to his death on Monday morning. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

298 9 February 1884 Chester Assizes

STEALING A HORSE Moses Littlemore, a boatman aged 38, was indicted for stealing a certain horse, the property of William Yarnall, his master, at Altrincham on the 11th of January, and was sentenced to six months hard labour.

299 23 February 1884

FOUND DROWNED At an inquest on Monday before Mr S Smelt, city deputy coroner, it transpired that about half past one o'clock on Sunday afternoon, a boatman named **William Graham**, residing at 33 Pilling Street, Newton Heath, was walking along the bank of the Rochdale Canal, opposite Messrs Bellhouse's works, when he observed the body of a man floating in the water, which he forthwith drew ashore and handed over to the police, who removed it to the Bridgewater Street mortuary, but have been unable to secure any evidence of identification. The body, which has evidently been in the water several days, appears to be that of a person about 30 years of age, and when found, was attired in a brown coat and vest very much worn, white linen shirt, white cotton vest, brown tie, laced up boots, but no stockings. In the pockets were 9 1/2d in money, pocket knife, a beerhouse check, two tickets for a benefit concert at the Bridgewater singing room, and a pocket handkerchief marked with the initials "GW". On the third finger of the right hand of the deceased was a ring. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

300 7 May 1884

INQUESTS ON MANCHESTER MEN On Monday afternoon, Mr F Price, district coroner, held two inquests at Barton, the first being on the body of **J Johnson** (otherwise known as **Jas Booth**) of Lees Street, Ancoats, who was found dead in the cabin of his boat in Patricroft on Saturday afternoon. The evidence went to show that deceased, who drank excessively, and who had been ill for some days past, obtained a black draught at a chemist's at Stretford, and on the passage of his boat from that village to Barton he complained of being ill, and on arriving at Patricroft his fellow boatmen found him lying across the "hatches" dead with a bottle containing whiskey beside him. A verdict of "Death from natural causes" was returned.

301 25 June 1884

BANKRUPTS J Pritchard, Chester, canal boatman.

302 28 June 1884 Manchester County Police Court

CRUELTY BY A BOATMAN A boatman named **Richard Draper**, of Runcorn, was charged before Sir John Iles Mantell with cruelty to a horse by working it attached to a barge that morning in an unfit condition, and sent to prisoner for a month with hard labour.

303 26 July 1884

RESCUE FROM DROWNING A flatman named **William Madden**, belonging to Manchester, fell overboard from the flat *Florence* into the Duke's Lock, Liverpool, at noon on Monday. He floated underneath the warehouses, and was in the water about a quarter of an hour, when he was rescued in an exhausted condition by a police-constable.

304 30 July 1884 Cheshire Assizes

John Jameson, 21, boatman, charged with an unnatural offence at Runcorn on the 4th June, was sentenced to 18 months hard labour.

305 12 August 1884

TWO MEN SHOT : EXTRAORDINARY CASE Yesterday afternoon about one o'clock, some boys were larking and throwing stones at some flats lying in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near Burlington Street Bridge, Liverpool. They seem to have greatly vexed a young flatman named **Miles Vickers** of the flat *Mary* of Burscough. He went into the cabin, and bringing on deck a fowling piece, fired it twice. The gun was loaded with shot, some of which lodged in the breast of a young man named Joseph Rice, who had to be taken in the ambulance to the Northern Hospital, and is now under medical treatment. A second person was hit, but not seriously hurt. A policeman who heard the shots at once boarded the flat and arrested Vickers.

306 13 August 1884

THE SHOOTING BY A LIVERPOOL FLATMAN At the Liverpool Police Court yesterday, **Miles Vickers**, a flatman, was charged with shooting a young man named Joseph Rice on Monday afternoon. The prisoner was on his flat on the canal, near Burlington Street, at the time named, and was annoyed by some boys throwing stones at him. The injured man was leaning on a bridge over the canal with some companions, and did not appear to have thrown any stones ; but the prisoner went into the cabin of the flat, and coming up again with a gun, fired at Rice and his companions. Rice was severely injured about the face and chest by the shot, and now lies in the Northern Hospital. The prisoner was remanded for a week.

307 6 September 1884

SINGULAR CASE OF SUPERSTITION On Thursday Mr T H Stanley held an inquest at the Horse and Jockey Inn, Bloxwich Road, Walsall, on the body of Leah Brown, 12, who was found drowned in the canal near Pratt's Bridge on Wednesday morning. The evidence of the mother, Miriam Brown, wife of a puddler, was to the effect that the deceased left home on Sunday afternoon to attend a school at Ryecroft, her brother, aged 10, accompanying her. The little boy returned at about four o'clock, having left school earlier than his sister. The deceased had been anxious to go blackberrying all the week, and on Sunday, but was not allowed to go to school or leave the house, because witness had had "a dread" upon her, in consequence of having three nights in succession dreamed of baking bread. She had lost other children, and on each occasion had had similar dreams before the child died. She dreamed each night that she was kneading dough and baking bread, and that her oven was 12 or 14 yards long. She had no suspicion of foul play, and had no reason to suppose that the child had intentionally drowned herself. **William Simcox**, boatman, having deposed to the finding of the body, the jury returned an open verdict.

308 20 September 1884

ANOTHER CANAL MYSTERY IN LIVERPOOL

SUPPOSED OUTRAGE AND MURDER Early on Thursday morning, the body of a little girl was found floating in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. It was afterwards identified as that of Ann Pollard, aged between 12 and 13 years, who lived with her parents in a court in Hornby Street, Liverpool. The mother of the child states that she believes her daughter met her death at the hands of an old flatman named **Josiah Owen**. Mrs Pollard sent the girl out on an errand about six o'clock on Wednesday night, and as she became anxious at her not returning, inquiries were made, and it was found that the girl had been on Owen's flat, but he said she had left some time ago. There were no marks of violence on the body, which was in a completely nude state when found. The man Owen is in charge of the police.

309 27 September 1884

THE LIVERPOOL CANAL TRAGEDY An inquest was held on Saturday by Mr Aspinall, the coroner for Liverpool, upon the body of Ann Pollard, a girl of 13 years, whose dead body was found in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal on Wednesday week. Evidence was given by the mother of the deceased, the wife of a labourer, that she was a good girl and never gave any trouble. Shortly

before six on Tuesday afternoon, the witness and deceased went to the canal bank to pick up cinders, and having collected a small quantity, the deceased was sent by her mother to sell them in the neighbouring streets. Since that time, her parents had not seen her alive. The father spent all night looking for her in the streets, but without avail, and the next day the dead body of a child, in a perfectly nude state, was found in the canal, both legs being broken about the ankles, the fractured bones piercing the flesh. Dr F W Lounds said he had made a *post mortem* examination of the child, who was a well-grown healthy and well nourished girl, tall for her age but not precocious. From the appearance of the body, he was of opinion that the child had been violated, and that death had afterwards been caused by drowning. The injuries to the legs he believed were caused after death. The inquest was adjourned to the 2nd October. The Government have offered a reward of £50 for the discovery of the murderer. **Owen**, the flatman on whose flat the girl was last seen on the night before the body was found, and who was taken to the detective office and there detained, has been liberated, there being no evidence connecting him with the mysterious death of the girl.

310 4 October 1884

A collision occurred on the river Mersey on Saturday which resulted in the loss of the flat *Frederick*, belonging to Messrs Muspratt, Huntley and Co. It was stated by the master, **William Pierce**, that as he was going down the river about four o'clock, the flat was run down when off Egremont Pier by the screw steamer *Derwentwater* of Newcastle. He and the two men on board had barely time to make their escape by the small boat before the flat, which was laden with 76 tons of sulphur, heeled over and sank.

311 4 October 1884

About eight o'clock on Tuesday morning, the wife of **Henry Brazier**, lock-keeper at the Aldwark locks, Rotherham, had her attention drawn by a boatman to some human remains which were floating in the water. She sent to Rawmarsh for the police, and Sergeant Drake at once went to her house. He had the remains taken out of the water, and found they consisted of the legs and feet and part of the back of a child. The head, face and shoulders are missing.

312 16 October 1884 Cheshire Quarter Sessions

SENTENCES **Joseph Hough**, 28, flatman, for stealing two bowls and one jack, the property of Robert Henry McDowell, at Over on the 7th August, one months imprisonment.

313 25 October 1884

Shortly before 12 o'clock on Tuesday, a flatman named **Albert Gittins**, of New Egerton Street, was drowned at Runcorn. Deceased's flat was lying outside the pier at Runcorn ready for a voyage to Liverpool, when Gittins was accidentally knocked overboard, and was washed away by the strong tide.

314 22 December 1884 Manchester County Police Court

HORSE STEALING AT FAILSWORTH Peter O'Brien of 3 Mill Street, Failsworth, was charged, before Mr J W McClure and Colonel Bridgford, with breaking into a stable at the same place on the 15th inst, and stealing a mare, value £12, the property of **John Kennedy**, a boatman. The animal, it was stated, had been sold by the prisoner at Liverpool for a sovereign. The prisoner was remanded for a week.

315 3 January 1885

ROBBERIES AT FAILSWORTH A young man named Peter O'Brien, lately residing in lodgings at 14 Mill Street, Failsworth, charged, before Mr J W McClure and Mr D I Flatteley, with stealing a quantity of clothing belonging to John Rourke, the son of the landlady, value £3, which he had taken away during the night of the 14th ult, and was found wearing at Liverpool a few days afterwards, was committed for trial at the sessions. He was also charged, on remand, with stealing a

mare and bridle, the same night, from a stable at Failsworth, belonging to a boatman named **James Kennedy**, by whom he had been formerly employed. The prisoner, when arrested by Police-constable Thomas Wilkinson at Liverpool, admitted the robbery, and said, "I rode the mare to Liverpool, and when I got there she went on three legs, and so I sold her for a sovereign". He was committed for trial on this charge also.

316 7 March 1885

DROWNED IN A WASHTUB Mr F Price, district coroner, held an inquiry on Monday at the British Fleet Inn, Salford, respecting the death of **Mary Jane Shuttleworth**, daughter of a river boatman residing in West Union Street, Salford. On Saturday afternoon, the mother, who had been washing, left a tub nearly full of water in one of the rooms downstairs, and during her temporary absence, the deceased, who was only two years old, fell head foremost into the water. On the mother's return, she found her daughter in that position, and the child, it is believed, was already dead. She, however, took it to Dr Frazer, who did everything he could to restore animation, but without avail. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

317 23 April 1885

Yesterday afternoon, at the county police court, Rochdale, **Thomas Harwood**, a canal boatman, who has been twice before charged with housebreaking, and been acquitted, was charged with breaking and entering the farmhouse of Mr Charles Holt, Higher Townhouse, near Littleborough, on Sunday evening last, and stealing £45. Harwood was committed for trial.

318 6 June 1885

Salford Hundred Sessions

SENTENCES Twelve months imprisonment : **Thomas Harwood**, 28, boatman, breaking into the dwelling house of Charles Holt at Blatchinworth, and stealing £45.

319 9 June 1885

A BOATMAN DROWNED IN THE IRWELL Mr F Price held an inquest at the Rechabite Hall, Salford, yesterday, respecting the death of **John Williams**, a canal boatman, who recently lived at Birchview, Barton-on-Irwell. The deceased, who was 26 years of age, was employed by Messrs Bardsley and Sons, corn millers, Barton Bridge, and on Friday afternoon, he and his mate, **Allen Booth**, were returning from Manchester along the river with their craft. When near Messrs Worrall's dye works in Salford, the deceased got on to the rudder in order to attach a rope to the end, and having clogs on, he slipped along the iron part of the rudder and fell into the water. Neither the deceased nor Booth could swim, but an alarm was immediately raised, and in about 10 minutes, the unfortunate man was got out of the water by means of a rope and boat hook. Life was, however, then extinct. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

320 16 June 1885

SUDDEN DEATH OF A BOATMAN At a little after eight yesterday morning, a boatman named **Joseph Gatley** of Runcorn, who had been for many years a captain in the Bridgewater Navigation Company's employ, dropped down dead on the deck of his boat, which was lying in the basin of the Rochdale Canal in this city. Deceased had just spoken a few words to an acquaintance, when a violent fit of coughing seized him. He fell almost immediately, and blood streamed from his mouth at an alarming rate, death being instantaneous. The body was removed to the Newton Street Police Station to await the inquest.

321 26 September 1885

An inquest was held on Thursday night on the body of **Owen Owen**, the son of a canal boatman, who was killed as his father's boat was passing between Chester and Ellesmere Port. The deceased had just put his head out of the cabin window when it was struck and completely smashed by another boat.

322 12 December 1885

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT 1883 – RECEIVING ORDERS **W Hurst**, Leeds, boatman.