

NUNEATON ADVERTISER

1 21 November 1868

SOUTHAM POLICE : MONDAY LAST

LARCENY **Thomas Williams**, a boat boy, was brought up under a warrant of remand, upon a charge of having stolen a pair of trowsers and a watchguard, of the value of 18s, the property of **Samuel Carter**, a boatman in the employ of Mr Clayton of Saltley, near Birmingham, on the 16th inst. Prosecutor deposed that on the last named day, prisoner was with him in a boat near Birmingham. He was about to engage prisoner to assist him. He left prisoner in charge of the boat, and when he returned, prisoner was gone. Prosecutor afterwards missed the trowsers and chain from the boat, and learnt that prisoner had been seen going with another boat towards Warwick. He went in that direction, past Warwick to Long Itchington, where he and PC Stones of the latter place, apprehended prisoner, after a run, and found the chain upon him. Prisoner stated that the trowsers were in the boat with which he was journeying, and they were found there when searched for. PC Stones proved the apprehension of prisoner, and also the finding of the property, which prosecutor at once identified as his. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was committed for two calendar months with hard labour.

2 21 November 1868

NEWBOLD-ON-AVON

INQUEST On Monday last an inquest was held at the Boat Inn at this village, before T Dewes Esq, Coroner, touching the decease of **Sarah Reynolds**, 7 years of age, daughter of **John Reynolds**, boatman, who had come to her death by burning. Elizabeth Reynolds said she had five children, the eldest 16 years of age, and they all lived in the cabin of the boat with herself and husband. On Tuesday morning between 11 and 12 o'clock, deceased was putting a piece of coal on a fire which had been made on the canal bank, when her clothes caught fire and she was burnt. Witness sent to the village for some stuff to dress the wounds with, and on Wednesday sent to Rugby for some more dressing ; deceased became worse, and on Thursday Dr Bucknill was sent for, but she died on Friday morning. William College, a labourer who was working near the place when the poor child's clothes caught fire, extinguished the flames. Dr Bucknill said he was sent for on Thursday afternoon, and at once went to the boat, where the child lay ; he found it suffering from burns on the lower part of the back and thighs, but they were not sufficient of themselves to cause death, though the shock to the system would probably do so. It was as much as he could do to get into the cabin where deceased lay, and he told the parents that she must be taken from that confined place to the Union the first thing next morning ; before this could be done she was dead. He thought if he had been sent for sooner, and deceased had been in a different atmosphere, there might have been a chance of her recovering, though she was very much emaciated, almost a skeleton. The Coroner expressed great surprise that seven persons could exist in such a place as the cabin of a boat, and asked the mother of deceased why they did not take a cottage. She said they had intended to take one, but when there was one to let they were away from Newbold, and so missed it. Mr Redley said the father of deceased worked for him, receiving £1 a week wages, and ought to take a cottage ; his eldest girl was 16 years of age, and she – with the other four children and father and mother – all lived in the boat. A gentleman who came with the Coroner said he had known many larger families than this living in the cabins of boats. The question was asked whether there was no supervision of boats, or whether any number of persons could be crammed into the cabin, but no answer was given, except that boats being always travelling about, prevented any inspection. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned by the jury.

3 19 December 1868

ATHERSTONE

INQUEST On Monday last an inquest was held at Mr James Meredith's, the King's Head, Grendon, by T Dewes Esq, coroner, on the body of a boy 16 years of age, who was found dead in

the Coventry Canal on Saturday. The name of the deceased was **Charles Beaumont**, from Oldbury in Staffordshire, and from the evidence of **Samuel Round**, a boatman, the deceased's master, it appeared that in passing the locks near Atherstone, finding that the deceased did not follow the boat after attending to one of the locks they had passed, he went back and inquired from the lock-keeper if he had seen his boy. The keeper said he had not. They then got out the drag and tried all the places where deceased was last seen, but failed to find the body. On Saturday, two days later, the body was brought to the surface by the line of another boat passing the place. Verdict, "Accidentally drowned".

4 27 March 1869

PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY MARCH 25

FELONY **Samuel Allen**, boatman, was charged with fraudulently converting to his own use and stealing £8 entrusted to him by **Elijah Moore**, boatman of Attleborough. The prosecutor said that on the 16th of November last he gave the prisoner £11 3s to pay the expenses of working a boat to Oxford, but when he got to Braunston he absconded, having paid £3 3s tonnage out of what he had given him. Committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions at Warwick.

5 1 May 1869

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY LAST

FELONY **Frederick Joyce**, boatman, Nuneaton, was charged with stealing, on the 22nd ult, 4s and a key value 1d, the goods and chattels of W Cox. Prosecutor said : I am landlord of the Plough and Ball, Nuneaton. On Thursday last the prisoner was at my house. There was a till in the bar, in which there was some silver and copper. I was sitting in the tap room with Wm Wilson, who spoke to me and said, "Hark, Cox, there is money rattling in the bar". I went, and met the prisoner coming out of the bar, and said to him, "You have been at that till again". He at first denied it, and then he acknowledged that he had taken fourpence halfpenny. William Wilson came in, and on searching the prisoner, found 3s 11d and the key of the till in his pocket. W Wilson corroborated the above evidence. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was committed for three months with hard labour.

6 22 May 1869

ACCIDENT ON THE WARWICK CANAL On Sunday afternoon, the 16th inst, an accident of a somewhat serious nature occurred on the Warwick and Napton Canal at Emscote, a short distance from the new road leading from Leamington to Warwick. It appears that Mr Bayliss of Emscote has taken a contract from the Warwick Local Board of Health to carry a culvert under the bed of the canal to connect a remote part of Emscote with Warwick for irrigation purposes. The contractor was proceeding steadily with the excavations, but had not taken the precaution to have the water drawn off. The accident occurred at the lowest reach of the canal, and it is easy to see that the cause was the carrying out of the excavations nearer the water without sufficient shorings than, as the result proves, was safe. However, no danger was apprehended when the workmen left off on Saturday night. The usual Sunday traffic was conducted on the following morning, nothing happening to excite suspicion until between 3 and 4 o'clock. At about 3 o'clock, **John Humphriss** passed over the place with two boats with cargoes of ironstone. Humphriss had not gone far beyond Warwick before he observed that the water in the canal was rapidly lowering. The same was observed by a boatman on the Radford side of the canal shortly afterwards. In the interim, a labourer of Warwick discovered a gap in the embankment on the Warwick side, at the side of the proposed culvert. He at once raised an alarm. Information was given to the police and to other parties concerned, and a large crowd speedily assembled. At this time, immense quantities of water were rushing with tremendous force through the aperture. The only thing that could be done to prevent further damage was to cut off the water, which was done at the nearest bridges on either side. In the meantime, the turbulent current had swept away a large portion of the embankment. There were several narrow escapes on account of the foolhardiness of the spectators, whom the police had to warn off a dangerous place just before it fell with a tremendous crash into the surging

waters. The adjacent meadows were of course flooded, but the amount of damage to the grass was not very large, the water having taken a pretty direct course to the Avon, which is within a hundred yards of the breach. A large canal boat, which had been moored near the scene of the accident, was driven from its moorings and dashed into three pieces, and carried some distance across the meadows. It was intended to have employed this boat in connection with the completion of the work during the partial cessation of traffic in Whitsun week. At this portion of the canal, the embankment is 30 feet above the level of the ground, and the breach is about 100 feet in width. Considerable amusement was occasioned by the more or less successful attempts of some of the bystanders in the capture of fish. The injury will involve considerable expense and interruption to traffic, as the latter cannot be resumed for some time. It will probably be a most unfortunate affair for the contractor, who is in a limited way of business, and is said to have undertaken the work at a price which could not have included an adequate provision against contingencies.

7 22 May 1869

BURSTING OF A CANAL EMBANKMENT The accident which occurred near Warwick on Sunday to the embankment of the Warwick and Napton Canal turns out to be of a much more serious character than was apprehended in the first instance. Independently of the total amount of damage, variously estimated at from £500 to £1000, considerable inconvenience will be occasioned by the stoppage of the canal traffic ; and although it is impossible to state at present the exact extent of the interruption, it is estimated that from ten to fourteen days will be its probable duration.

8 22 May 1869

CRUSHED TO DEATH 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 along the canal from Manchester to Leigh. When near to Boothtown Bridge, Capper happened to go within the line, and the mule taking fright and drawing the line tight, he was thrown into the water. One of the boats dashed him against the side of the canal, which at this point is formed of stone. His two mates on board, **Thomas Goth** and **Joseph Hilton**, went to his rescue, but on getting him out they found that he was dead. He had been fearfully crushed between the boat and the bank.

9 12 June 1869

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JUNE 9

POACHING **James Newton**, boatman of Uxbridge, was charged with poaching on the Stanford Hall Estate. Mr Gery for defendant. Defendant was seen to fire a gun and pick something up on the farm of Mr R Malin, at North Kilworth. He gave a false name and address. Fined £1 and £1 3s costs, or in default two months. The money was paid.

10 10 July 1869

ATTEMPTED MURDER NEAR HANLEY A boatman on the Trent and Mersey Canal named **Thomas Vaughan** made a determined attempt to murder his wife on Saturday morning at Etruria, near Hanley. He had been drinking two days at a place called Longport, about two miles off, and his wife walked after the boat from that place to Etruria. On her entering the boat about midnight on Friday, her husband picked up a windlass, or iron key used to open locks on the canal, and declaring he would kill her, struck her on the head with it several times. He repeated that he would "do" for her, and on her falling on her knees and begging him to spare her till morning, he, again swearing he would kill her there and then, thrust her head into the cabin stove, which had no fire fortunately, and said he would have burnt her to death if there had been fire. He then threw her on the floor of the cabin and, getting on the hatchway, kicked her violently on the lower part of the face and neck. She screamed "Murder" and someone coming along, she managed to crawl from the boat to the house of the canal inspector, who took her to the Infirmary. Her disposition was taken by a magistrate on Saturday, as there was not the least prospect of her recovery. Her head was a mass of

bruises and presented a most horrible spectacle, so much so that the magistrate was obliged to retire during the evidence and one of the clerks fainted. The husband, who had been shortly before apprehended, was present, but was perfectly callous, even chuckling on seeing his wife, who was scarcely recognisable. The unhappy woman is 25 years of age, and married the prisoner at 15. She has two children, and about three weeks ago his ill usage caused premature confinement. The prisoner has served several years' penal servitude for horse stealing.

11 12 March 1870

NUNEATON PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY MARCH 10

STEALING A WATCH AND CAP **Thomas Herbert**, boatman, was charged with stealing on the 1st of March at Polesworth, a silver watch and chain key, together with a felt cap, the property of **Alfred Taylor**, boatman of Banbury. Prosecutor said : On the 24th February last, I went with my father's boat from Banbury to Polesworth for a load of coal ; a youth named **William Cooper** was with me ; we tied the boat up, and in about three hours after, the prisoner arrived at the same wharf with his boat. On Tuesday the 1st inst, I had got my boat loaded, and the prisoner came on board when I was clothing it preparatory to starting home. He said he would help Cooper tie the cloths while I laded the water out. He walked along the planks to the cabin and said all was straight. I then went down into the hold to lade out the water, and saw no more of him. This was between two and three in the afternoon. The watch was safe in the cabin at eleven o'clock, on a shelf. The one now produced is mine ; it is No 9981, with WD engraved inside the case. We started home, and about half past four asked Cooper to look what time it was, and he told me the watch was gone. He said no one had been on board but the prisoner. I went on to Banbury, and then returned and gave information to Inspector Hersher. I also missed my cap, now produced, which I placed in the cupboard of the cabin the day before. On my watch there were a steel chain and key, with other appendages, which are still missing. I saw my cap again yesterday in the possession of Police-sergeant Haward of Banbury, and the watch today in the possession of Inspector Hersher. William Cooper, boatman, corroborated part of the above, and also stated that when the prosecutor went down into the hold to lade out the water, the prisoner went into the cabin and remained there several minutes. Robert Wilson, watchmaker, Nuneaton, said : The prisoner came to my shop on Wednesday the 2nd inst, and offered the watch now produced for sale. I gave him £1 for it. He pleaded distress, which caused me to buy it ; he said it was his own, and that he gave about £2 for it. Daniel Haward, police-sergeant stationed at Banbury said : From information received, I met the prisoner with his boat near Banbury on Sunday morning last. I told him there had been a watch and cap stolen from a boat in Warwickshire, and I suspected he knew something about it. He said he did not. I searched the boat and found the cap now produced, inside a hat in the cupboard of the cabin. I asked him how he came in possession of it, and he said he bought it at a shop in Banbury, but he was no scholar and could not tell which. I took him into custody on the charge of stealing it. Inspector Hersher said he received the watch produced from Mr Wilson on Monday last. I received the prisoner into my custody on Tuesday last at Banbury on the charge of stealing the watch. The prisoner had nothing to say, and was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions.

12 24 September 1870

NUNEATON PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22

DRUNK **Isaac Lapworth**, boatman of Stockingford, was charged on the information of Superintendent Austin, with being drunk on the 10th inst at Hartshill. PC Edges proved the case, and defendant was fined 5s and 13s 6d costs.

13 22 October 1870

BRAUNSTON

CHARGE OF STEALING BANK NOTES On Thursday at the Northampton Quarter Sessions, **Job Williams**, boatman, was charged with stealing £30 in bank notes, the property of Daniel Boswell, at Braunston on the 8th of October. The Chairman, in his charge to the Grand Jury, alluded

to this case, and said it appeared that the notes had been dropped by the prosecutor and picked up by prisoner. In law, it would be an offence if the prisoner picked them up and kept them, knowing to whom they belonged. It was, however, a matter for their consideration. The Grand Jury returned no true bill, and consequently Williams was discharged.

14 14 January 1871

PETTY SESSIONS, JANUARY 11

ASSAULT William Thompson, Norton Locks, was charged with assaulting his mother on the 4th of January inst. Elizabeth Lowe said the defendant is her son. She lives at the New Inn at Norton Locks. On Wednesday the 4th inst, about 6 o'clock in the evening, she was going to make up a fire, and the defendant was not willing. He pushed her and she fell down. She was not hurt except in her mind to think that he would do so. There was a quarry out of the floor, and her foot caught in the hole. (Witness gave her evidence with evident reluctance). **Thomas Newton**, a boatman, said he was present at the time in question. He heard some words between the defendant and his mother, and he saw the defendant push his mother violently with both hands, and she fell. Witness picked her up and put her in a chair in the parlour, where she remained for an hour and a half. He did not think she was much hurt, but Mr Lowe sent for the police. The parish constable went, and the defendant was given in charge. Mrs Lowe called "Murder" and a number of boat people went into the house. Witness thought Mrs Lowe cried out more from rage than hurt. **Peter Conway**, a boatman, who also charged the defendant with assaulting him, said he went into the New Inn on the evening of the 4th inst. Witness called for a pint of ale, and as soon as Mrs Lowe appeared, the defendant picked her up and threw her down. Witness said, "William, you will kill your mother". Defendant turned round and, striking witness a blow on the face, knocked him on the fireplace. Mrs Lowe was insensible for an hour and a half. Witness could hardly say what state the defendant was in. The defendant, in reply, said he was very sorry for assaulting both his mother and Peter Conway. The police said the defendant was a very violent man, and had had four months' imprisonment for throwing a woman into the canal. The Bench said the defendant had committed a double assault, was of a very violent character, and not improved by his former imprisonment. Committed to prison for four months with hard labour, and at the expiration thereof to be bound over to keep the peace for six months, finding one surety in £40.

15 8 July 1871

FATAL ACCIDENTS About half past three o'clock on Sunday afternoon, a child named **George Martin**, whilst in company with his father near the canal at Bradford-cum-Beswick, touched one of the boat horses, which resented the liberty by kicking him in the chest. A doctor was immediately sent for, but the poor child died in five hours. He was six years old and resided with his father, a boatman, in Mill Street, Bradford.

16 15 July 1871

WANTED A steady boatman and a strong lad. Constant work found on wharf when not engaged boating. Apply to C Roadknight, Atherstone.

17 26 August 1871

NOVEL WAY OF RIDING **William Fox**, boatman of Birmingham, was charged by Detective Inspector Charles Sawtell with attempting to get on the 8.35 pm train while in motion, on the Midland Railway at the Tamworth station on the 16th inst. The prisoner had not money enough to pay his fare to Birmingham and, after in vain trying to raise the wind by selling his braces, he ran after a train in motion and tried to get on the buffer. The prisoner said he was sorry for what he had done, and as the case was not pressed, he was fined 5s and 13s 6d costs.

18 16 September 1871

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **John Jelly**, a boatman in the employ of Mr Neale of Hatton, was

summoned by Mr Gibbs, officer for the Leamington Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, for cruelly ill using a horse. On Friday afternoon, Police-constable Hobday saw the defendant driving a horse which was towing a boat on the Birmingham and Napton Canal near Offchurch. He whipped the horse, which was lame in both fore legs and stood still, and seemed in great pain. The boat contained 100 qrs of wheat. On the horse's shoulder, under the collar, was a wound of the size of a shilling, and another as large as a sixpenny piece. Mr Gibbs said when he saw the horse it seemed to suffer excruciating pain in moving. It took two hours to get the horse to Leamington, a distance of two miles, and he thought it could not now go a mile an hour. Mr Ford, veterinary surgeon, gave evidence as to the horse being unfit for use. The defendant was fined 10s 6d and costs £1 9s 6d. Paid.

19 18 May 1872

RUGBY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

CHARGE OF CRUELTY **William Neal**, a boatman, was charged with working a horse in an unfit condition. PC Wright met the horse on Sunday, near Brinklow, drawing a boat, with a bandage on its leg covering a sore as large as the palm of his hand, from which matter was oozing. The defence was that the horse was not lame, but was in excellent condition, and the sore resulted from the horse being accidentally staked. It was not where anything could touch it, and the farrier who dressed it recommended that the horse should be worked. Superintendent Palmer said he had had frequent complaints of cruelty on the part of boatmen to their horses, and had instructed his men to be on the look out. The Bench thought this quite right, but they could hardly convict in the present case, in the absence of veterinary evidence. Dismissed on payment of 8s costs.

20 24 August 1872

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY LAST

LARCENY **James Hall**, boatman, was charged with stealing a pair of boots, value 13s, the property of **William Monk**, another boatman, by whom he was employed. Prisoner pleaded guilty, saying he had not received any wages, and being found fault with in his work, he took the shoes and left. Committed for fourteen days hard labour.

21 24 August 1872

NUNEATON PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY LAST

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY **John Holt** and **George Dix**, alias **Craddock**, boatmen, were charged on the information of Police-sergeant Poultney with being drunk, quarrelsome, disorderly and refusing to quit the Chetwynd Arms Inn, Polesworth, when requested to do so by the police on the 17th inst.

Sergeant Poultney said about seven o'clock on Saturday evening, he saw a great crowd outside the house, and heard a noise. He was called to by the female servant to put the defendants out. The information was laid under the new Act, and defendants were ordered to pay a fine of 40s and 14s costs each. The Bench said they had subjected themselves to a penalty of £5, and the magistrates were determined to put down drunkenness and disorderly conduct as much as lay in their power. In default of payment, they were to be committed for 28 days, but they both paid.

FELONY **James Blower** and **Joseph Ball**, boatmen, were charged with stealing two asses at the parish of Mancetter, the property of **John Todds**. Prosecutor lives at Bedworth and is a boatman. On Friday morning last the prisoner Blower was in his service with the boat at Curdworth; the donkeys were drawing the boat. He told Blower to take the boat on to Bedworth, while prosecutor went to Coventry. On Saturday morning, the boat not having arrived at Bedworth, prosecutor went by the canal side to Atherstone, and there found the boat, but the donkeys were sold. He gave information to Inspector Hersher. John Barnsley said on Friday night the prisoners asked him to look at a donkey they wanted to sell, and when he got there he saw two by the canal side near Minion's Wharf. He purchased the oldest one for 15s, and went into the Maid of the Mill public

house to have some beer over the bargain, and while there they offered to sell the other donkey, which he bought for £1. Blower gave Ball 2s out of the money for the first donkey ; Ball took part in making the bargain, and told him if he bought the first donkey for 15s and kept it a week, he (Ball) would give £1 for it. Ball had a boat there with one donkey. Committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions.

22 28 September 1872

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY LAST

A SAD CASE **Ann Bromwich** was charged under a summons with drunkenness, and also brought up as a prisoner under a second charge. The latter only was gone into. PC Archer said that on Saturday night he heard a woman was drunk in Windmill Lane, and there he found prisoner with about 100 people round her, and had to take her to the station in a hand cart. He had repeatedly cautioned her. Superintendent Palmer said the husband of the prisoner was a respectable hard working man of his class. Dr Bucknill said he must keep money away from her. Superintendent Palmer said he could not, for he was a boatman, away from home for considerable time, and prisoner would strip the house and sell everything she could. Defendant said her husband was away, and she could not sit at home by herself. If let off, she would go and live on the canal. Dr Bucknill said that also was a "public place". Fined 5s and 14s 6d costs, or in default committed for 14 days.

23 1 March 1873

THE FORTUNES AND MISFORTUNES OF A RACEHORSE At the Magistrates' Clerk's Office on Monday, **William Cooper**, a boatman, was summoned for cruelly ill-using a horse. William Gibbs, officer of the Leamington Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, stated that on Saturday he saw the defendant was driving the horse, which was drawing a boat on the Warwick and Napton Canal. The animal reeled about from sheer weakness. On raising the collar, he found a wound of the size of his hand on the off shoulder, and a smaller one on the near shoulder, and both bleeding. Under the crupper there were two other sores. The defendant told him he was on his way to Moira for a load of coal. He also told him that it was an old broken-down racehorse, which had won for the owner £1,000, and had never been in collar until it had come into his possession. Inspector Glenn corroborated Mr Gibbs' statement as to the condition of the horse. The defendant was ordered to pay 40s.

24 8 March 1873

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY LAST

DISORDERLY **Thomas Dunn** of Heyford, boatman, was called, but did not appear, to answer to a charge of being disorderly at the George and Dragon Inn, Fenny Compton, and refusing to leave when requested. PC Garland proved the service of the summons upon the defendant, and the case was proceeded with in his absence. It appeared from the evidence that defendant and another boatman went into the house, and assaulted a man named Charles Stanbra and caused a great disturbance. The Bench said he would have to pay a fine and costs amounting to £2 2s 6d, or be imprisoned for 21 days.

25 7 June 1873

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JUNE 4

THEFT **Alfred Heath**, Birmingham, was charged with stealing a pair of trousers valued at 21s, the property of William Collins, Whilson Locks. Prosecutor was a tailor, and at six o'clock on the morning of the 31st May hung the trousers against the door of his shop. The trousers produced were his. George Taylor, apprentice to the prosecutor, identified the trousers as some which he had made. Prisoner is a boatman, and witness saw him on the canal on the morning of the 31st ult. Edwin Tilley, another apprentice of the prosecutor, met the prisoner with the trousers under his arm. James Tilley, shoemaker, said the prisoner went to his shop on the 31st of May and bought a pair of boots,

paying half the money down, and promising to pay the remainder on returning from London. Prisoner had with him a pair of trousers like those produced and tied them up in his neckerchief. PC White went to Great Bridge, Staffordshire, on June 1st and found the prisoner wearing the trousers produced. Witness charged him with stealing them. He made no reply at the time ; but on the road from Crick station to Daventry, said he bought them from a person on the side of the canal for 12s. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to three calendar months with hard labour.

26 16 August 1873

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS At the Leamington Police Court on Wednesday, **Thomas Randall**, a boatman, who said he belonged to Nuneaton, was charged with cruelly torturing two asses. Mr Gibbs, Inspector of the Leamington and Warwickshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, stated that that morning he saw the defendant driving two small donkeys, which were drawing a canal boat with a full load of stone. The donkeys were in very poor condition, and on one of them there were five wounds, the largest the size of a half crown, and on the other a number of wounds. The harness chafed and rubbed the wounds. The Bench ordered defendant to pay 20s, or in default of immediate payment 14 days imprisonment, and told him he would be fined again if he was found a second time in the district with donkeys drawing a boat.

27 15 November 1873

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 12

STEALING SALT **Enoch Smith** was charged with stealing, and George Dickins and Frederick Dickins with receiving, twenty squares of salt, the property of John Corbett, Stoke Priors Salt Works, Worcestershire.

PC Phenix said he, with PC Vickers, was watching the boat of the prisoner Smith on the night of the 4th inst. About half past four on the morning of the 5th, witness saw the boat rising in the lock close to Dickins's house, and a few minutes later, he saw Charles Dickins, a lad of eleven or twelve years and son of the prisoner George Dickins, and another lad about the same age named Ware, a nephew of the prisoner Smith, carry lumps of salt from the boat to the door of George Dickins's salt warehouse, where Frederick Dickins received the lumps. At the same time, the prisoner George Dickins was standing on the bridge, having on a white jacket or slop. Witness saw twenty squares of salt carried from the boat to the warehouse. He saw George Dickins go from the bridge into the house. Witness followed, having first to cross the tow path and the locks, and when he got into the house Dickins was just putting on a brown coat. Witness asked for the invoice of the salt. George Dickins replied, "Smith will show you that". PC Vickers showed witness the invoice, and he charged and apprehended Dickins, who made no reply. The prisoner Frederick Dickins came from the direction of the warehouse, crying. After that, witness, Vickers, and all the prisoners went to the warehouse. Witness said, "Here are the twenty squares of salt". Smith said, "There are only eighteen". The squares were again counted, and Smith allowed there were twenty. The prisoners G Dickins and Smith were, with the salt, taken to Daventry. Witness returned to Braunston with Inspector Browning, who apprehended Frederick Dickins and charged him with being concerned in stealing salt. Prisoner replied, "My father called me up and told me to get some salt in". Witness had weighed the salt ; there was 5 cwt, 50 lbs and 12 oz.

In reply to Mr Roche, who appeared for all the prisoners : I know the prisoner Frederick to be weak minded. Smith did not tell me he took the salt into Dickins's warehouse because the boat was top heavy. He never said anything as to the condition of the boat. I was in charge of the boat for some time, but I don't know that a man named Howells went to the boat. I never saw any water taken out of the boat. I do not know that there was a hole in the boat. It is not unusual for boats to pass along all night. I believe the steam tug starts at four o'clock in the morning.

PC Vickers corroborated the evidence of Phenix.

William Morris, a weigher at Mr Corbett's works, deposed to loading the boat with 28 tons of salt. In cross-examination, this witness said that he had never heard of salt being thrown into the canal to lighten the load. He had known one instance in which a boat being overladen was stopped to

lighten her load. She had only got about a quarter of a mile from the works. He had heard of deficiencies of cargo when boats came to the termination of the journey. The prisoner Smith's boat was named *Maria*. There was room on her for two tons more, but she would only carry 28 tons.

Richard Westall, one of the managers of the Stoke Prior Salt Works, produced a duplicate of the invoice and the pay note. He said the prisoner worked his own boat, and contracted to carry the salt to the City Basin. Smith had no authority to part with any of it on the way. In reply to Mr Roche : The salt was invoiced to London. It would be weighed there, and if there was any deficiency in the weight, it would be endorsed on the invoice and the invoice be sent back to the works. Smith would not have to make good the deficiency, but the carriage for that weight would be deducted. There had been frequent deficiency, and the boatman had been asked to account for it, but it had never been said to have been thrown away. If a boatman found the boat leaked, he would be justified in lightening the boat or doing anything necessary to save the bulk of the cargo and the boat from sinking. Such conditions would not be affected by the removal of a ton from the cargo. I never heard till I came here today anything about a leak in Smith's boat, the *Maria*. PC G Roberts was in charge of the prisoner's boat after the apprehension of the prisoners, and a young man and a boy went to the boat. The young man said he "had come to pump the boat". He tried the pump, but could get no water. He said the boat was all right, and would take no hurt now.

On the prisoners being asked if they had anything they wished to say, Smith said, "I never stole the salt. I wished to leave 5 cwt to lighten my boat".

Mr Roche thought he would be able to show by witnesses that the boat of the prisoner Smith was in a condition to endanger the whole cargo and the sinking of his boat, unless some of the salt was taken off, and that the removal of the salt to Dickins's warehouse was effected for that purpose, and not to commit a felony.

Gabriel Archer, a boatman in the employ of Mr Clayton of Saltley, Birmingham, met the prisoner Smith's boat on the Birmingham side of Leamington on the morning of Tuesday November 4th ; he told Mrs Smith, who was steering, that the boat was carrying more than she was qualified to carry. The rope was adjusted for a boat top heavy. Ten hundred off a boat top heavy would make all the difference. If he had been in charge of that boat, he would have lightened the cargo. Witness heard of the charge against the prisoners while at Birmingham last Friday. He could not say who told him. He did not know the man's name. He did not know who asked him to give evidence. After a great deal of fencing, he said Mrs Dickins sent to him to come.

John Parrott, boatman, Droitwich, said he met Smith's boat near Leighton Buzzard ; he saw she had got too much on the top. He had carried salt, and he had left some at Bugbrook Wharf, and also at Blisworth. He had had to throw some into the canal. He had thrown as much as four tons into the canal. He had had four boats "sunk nigh enough ; not quite sunk". William Dickins asked him to come and give evidence.

The prisoners were all committed for trial, bail being allowed, themselves in £100 each, and two sureties in £50 each. Bail was allowed, but the Bench declined to bind over the two witnesses for the defence.

28 **20 December 1873**

LEAMINGTON

ROBBERY FROM A CANAL BOAT An impudent robbery of a considerable sum of money, from a canal boat named the *Perseverance* belonging to **Henry Webb** of Brierley Hill, was committed at Leamington on Sunday afternoon. Webb left Brierley Hill for London on Thursday last with a cargo of fire bricks belonging to Mr Hickman of Stourbridge. He was accompanied by a boatman named **Edward Smart** and a boy of about ten years of age named **George Brown**. They reached Leamington about three o'clock on Sunday afternoon, and Webb then left the *Perseverance* and went back to Hunscombe to another of his boats, the *Henry and Anne*, to get a letter written. Having obtained the letter, he posted it in the pillar box under the railway arches at Leamington, and proceeded to join the *Perseverance* which, in the meantime, had continued its course along the canal. Webb found his boat adrift in the middle of the stream near the Militia barracks. The boy

Brown was at the time on the towing path, calling, as he supposed, to Smart, whom he had left in the boat. Smart had previously sent the boy back into Leamington to get a pennyworth of apples, and in the boy's absence, it is presumed, had broken open a cupboard in the cabin, in which Webb kept his money, and absconded with it, leaving the boat to take its chance in the middle of the canal. Webb got into another boat, and then reached the *Perseverance*, and found that the cabin cupboard had been broken open and a purse containing £45 and a German silver watch had been stolen. Smart had also taken with him a bundle of clothes. A man answering his description was seen on Sunday evening proceeding in the direction of Southam. Smart is a tall rather dark man, about 24 years of age, and wears earrings. He wore a short dark cloth jacket, and also carried with him a black pilot overcoat, and a new white flannel jacket. Smart formerly worked in a brickyard at Oldbury where, from his soldierly gait, he was called "Soldier Smart". Smart had been about eight weeks in the employ of Webb, who states he knew that he had undergone a long term of imprisonment for breaking into the shop of Mr Algood, watchmaker of Oldbury. Some persons will probably think that with this knowledge of his antecedents, Webb did not act prudently in leaving Smart in charge of the boat and such a large sum of money.

29 27 June 1874

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JUNE 24

LEAVING SERVICE **John Goodman**, boatman, Kilsby, was charged with unlawfully leaving the service of Clement Pear Percy Ditcher, coal merchant, Kilsby. Mr Roche for the complainant. Complainant said he hired the defendant some months ago as a carter, at 18s a week. Four or five weeks ago, defendant became a boatman at £1 a week. On Sunday last, having come back from Leicester, complainant said to him, "Well, Jack, how have you got on this time?" Defendant replied, "All right". The captain of the boats wanted to go to his club on Monday, and to accommodate him it was arranged that the boats, which were at Watford Locks, should be taken to Crick station at three o'clock in the morning, the defendant agreeing to be there at that time. About half past nine o'clock the same evening, complainant met the defendant in the street, when defendant said he should leave. Complainant said he would have to take the boats and unload the next morning. Defendant said he would if complainant would bring his things back. Complainant said if defendant gave him a week's notice he would bring his things back. The defendant never went to the work. Complainant said he, in consequence, lost four or five pounds. It was customary to have a week's notice from boatmen and a month's from captains. **Thomas Gascoigne**, captain of two boats belonging to the complainant, said he knew his master had been put to inconvenience and expense through defendant leaving. All the conversation he heard on Sunday was that the defendant would go on Monday morning. Witness had been a captain some time. The custom was a week's notice for boatmen and a month for captains. There was a special arrangement when the agreement was by the trip. The defendant said there was no agreement, and he did not like the job, so he would rather not go again. The Bench enquired if he wished to go back again. He said he did. The complainant said he did not wish him to go back, as he had made other arrangements. It appeared there was 16s due to the defendant as wages. The Bench decided that the costs 10s 6d were to be paid out of the 16s, and the complainant hold the balance. The contract to be annulled,

30 11 July 1874

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY LAST

CHARGE OF LARCENY **Joseph Beauchamp**, a boatman on the Oxford Canal, was charged with having stolen a plank, the property of Mr R G Brown of Fenny Compton wharf. Mr Wood of Southam defended. From the evidence it appeared that defendant was seen to pick up a plank out of the water opposite to a brickyard of Mr Brown's, and to place it on his own boat. He at once gave it up, however, on being sent after. Mr Brown said defendant used very abusive language towards him when he spoke about it. Mr Wood, addressing the Bench on behalf of his client, pleaded the absence of any felonious intent on Beauchamp's part in taking the plank, which he found floating in the water, and took up and placed outside his boat where anyone might see it. He had no means of

knowing who it belonged to. Case dismissed.

31 11 July 1874

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY JULY 11

STRAY CATTLE Thomas Gent, miner, **William Shilcock**, boatman, **William Cooper**, boatman, and **William Preedy**, boatman, were summoned for having, at Polesworth on the 26th ult, unlawfully permitted nine asses, of which they were the owners, to stray. The last mentioned defendant did not put in an appearance, and the service of the summons was proved. The charge was proved, and the Magistrates ordered the defendants to pay the expenses, 9s each.

32 3 October 1874

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29

DRUNKENNESS **John Hemsley**, boatman, pleaded guilty to being drunk at Polesworth on the 8th inst. PS Poultney stated the case, and the accused, after being suitably cautioned by the Bench, was let off on payment of a fine of 2s 6d and the expenses 13s 6d.

33 31 October 1874

DAVENTRY, COUNTY MAGISTRACY, OCTOBER 23

A special Petty Sessions was held at the Magistrates' Rooms, before Cols Clarke and Lowndes.

CHARGE OF STEALING A GREYHOUND **John Thacker**, a boatman, and **John Draper**, assistant, were charged with stealing a greyhound, the property of Mr Jinks Howkins. Mr Roche for the defence. Charles Hales said he lives with his grandfather, Richard Hales, butcher, Crick. His grandfather kept a greyhound (the one produced), the property of Mr Howkins. The greyhound was safe in the stable at five o'clock on the morning of the 10th inst, when witness left home to go to market. On his return at five o'clock in the evening it was gone. Had not seen it since, till that day. By Mr Roche : My grandfather's stable is about half a mile from the canal. Thomas Bazeley said he lives at Crick. On the 10th of October, he saw the dog produced on Bartlett's Bridge. There was nobody with it. He knew the dog before, and was sure it was the same. He heard somebody whistle, and the dog went off the bridge on to the tow path, where he saw a boatman. He did not see the dog after it went off the bridge. The whistling kept on for some time. He did not see the dog on the tow path. He saw the man and the horse. He only saw one boatman. Jinks Howkins, farmer, Lilbourne Furze, said the dog produced was his property. It was lost from Crick, where it was in the care of Richard Hales. Having heard of the loss of the dog, he made enquiries and told PC Chambers. On the following Monday, he heard that Chambers had some tidings of the dog. Witness went with Chambers to Birmingham, and then on to Dudley Port. He there saw the dog in the prisoner Thacker's boat. The dog recognised witness. Witness gave Thacker in charge. Witness said nothing to Thacker as to how he came by the dog. In reply to Mr Roche, witness said he and Chambers went to the defendant's boat twice. Between the first and second visit, there might be two hours. Witness did not hear what took place between Thacker and Chambers. The canal is five or six miles from Lilbourne Farm. The value of the dog is ten guineas. John Holland, assistant book keeper to the Grand Junction Canal Company at Norton Wharf, knew Thacker as captain of one of the Company's boats. Witness saw him at Norton Wharf on the 16th inst, and saw the greyhound produced in Thacker's boat, but said nothing to him about it. Prisoner had come from Leicester and was on his way to London. He had gone by Norton Wharf, from Leicester, on the 10th, about half past seven in the morning. From Leicester to Norton Wharf, the defendant would go by Crick Wharf. By Mr Roche : Had been in the employ of the Company four or five years ; Thacker was an old servant of the Company and had a very good character. PC Chambers of the County Police said that in consequence of something he had heard, he went with Mr Howkins to Dudley Port. He went to the Wharf, and went on to Thacker's boat between two and three o'clock. Thacker was not there then. He searched the boat, which was empty. He saw some straw, and a bone which appeared as if recently gnawed by a dog. He called the attention of the man in charge of the boat. Shortly after that, Thacker went to the boat and witness asked him if he had a dog. He

replied, "No, not here ; there was one followed the boy". Witness asked where from. He said, "From against Crick, near a high bridge". He then asked where the dog was. Thacker replied "the boy (Draper) had taken the dog to Birmingham". He added that he did not want the dog, and said "we picked it up", then correcting himself, he said, "The dog followed the boy, and came on the boat itself". Witness told him the dog was stolen, Mr Howkins was the owner, and that they must have the dog. They would call again. About two hours afterwards, they went to the boat again. The dog was then in the boat. Mr Howkins owned the dog, and gave the prisoner into witness's custody. Witness took Thacker to the lock up at Birmingham. He then returned to Dudley Port and apprehended the prisoner Draper, who when charged said, "We picked it up against Crick". When taking the prisoners from Crick station, Thacker said, "That gentleman is very lucky to get that dog again". Mr Roche said Thacker was one of the oldest servants of the Grand Junction Company, and had an excellent character. The evidence was not sufficient to show that he had committed a felony in "picking up" and taking care of the dog which he refused to sell. The dog was beyond all question straying, and he should bring evidence to show that defendant, like an honest man as he was, told the lock-keeper at the very next lock he came to that he had picked up a stray dog, and if he (the lock-keeper) heard any enquiry about it, he might say John Thacker had it, and the owner might have it. Several persons had offered to buy the dog, among others Mr Browning of Crick Wharf, whom the defendant told the dog was not for sale. **John Bottrill**, lock-keeper on the Grand Union Canal at Watford, a situation he had filled for over eight years, knew John Thacker quite well. Thacker passed witness's lock on the 10th inst, and he then told witness that if he knew of anybody that had lost a dog (the dog produced) or if he heard any inquiry about one, he might say that he (Thacker) had it, and the owner might have it. William Holland, agent to the Grand Junction Canal at Norton Wharf, had known Thacker for thirty years, during which time he had always borne a good character. The Bench thought there was no criminal intent, but thought the defendant did very wrong in keeping the dog so long. By due diligence, he might have found the owner. The charge was dismissed.

34 28 November 1874

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 25

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT **John Birch, Benjamin Birch, Margaret Birch and Jane Birch**, boat people, Spoke Pound, were charged with committing an aggravated assault on **William Drakeford**, boatman, at Braunston. Complainant said he was at Braunston the previous day, when having come through the tunnel with his boat he went through the top lock, and then sent his wife on to shut the gate at the second lock. She did so, and got the paddle up, when the defendant Benjamin Birch who, with the other defendants and two boats, were coming in the opposite direction, ran to the lock and hindered complainant's wife from filling the lock. Complainant went to assist his wife, as according to the rules of the canal the lock was his. The other three defendants then came up, and a general struggle ensued, during which one of the women wrested the windlass from the hand of complainant and struck him over the head with it, which stunned him and cut his head open. The whole of the defendants struck and kicked him. **John Kelsey**, boatman, and **Hannah Drakeford**, wife of complainant gave a similar account of the affray. Defendants had no answer to the charge. Fined 11s and costs 9s 11d each, or one month. The money was paid.

35 23 January 1875

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JANUARY 20

LEAVING SERVICE **Thomas Taylor**, boatman, Long Buckby, charged with this offence, did not appear. A warrant was issued.

36 15 May 1875

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, MAY 12 **Thomas Conway**, boatman of Leicester, had been locked up because he was found wandering abroad in the streets of Weedon and not capable of taking care of himself. Superintendent Bailie said the man seemed all right now, and he asked for

his discharge. Dismissed on payment of 1s 8d for his meals.

37 14 August 1875

PROMPTED BY HUNGER A young man who gave the name of **William Jones** and described himself as a boatman was charged with having stolen 1 1/2 lbs of cake, value 9d, the property of Thomas Adkins, Stretton-on-Dunsmore. On Monday morning about half past seven, prosecutor saw prisoner coming from his doorway, and on going into the house he missed the piece of cake. He followed prisoner and found part of it upon him. Prisoner said he went in to buy a penny loaf, and seeing the cake, he was tempted by hunger to take it. He said he was making his way to London where he had heard of work. When taken into custody, prisoner had one penny upon him. The Magistrates thought it a suspicious circumstance when a young and strong man was wandering about destitute, but they did not think it expedient to send him to gaol, and therefore he would be discharged.

38 9 October 1875

NUNEATON

A GIRL COMMITTED FOR MANSLAUGHTER An adjourned inquest touching the death of a child recently found drowned in the canal at the Griff Colliery, near Nuneaton, was held on Monday afternoon at the Newdegate Arms Hotel before Thomas Dewes Esq, coroner, and a jury of which Mr Thomas Hardy was foreman. **Phoebe Pearsall**, a girl 18 years of age, was present during the inquiry, and was represented by Mr W W Slingsby, solicitor, Nuneaton.

Prior to taking evidence, the Coroner said he found it would be necessary, before proceeding with the inquiry, to order an exhumation of the body of deceased, to enable the medical man to make a further examination of it.

Nathan Buckler of Chilvers Coton, boatman, proved finding the body on the 18th of last month, in the basin of the canal connected with the Griff Colliery. It was entirely naked.

A single woman named **Mary Ann Arnold** gave evidence that some time ago she was in a boat at the Griff Colliery, and Pearsall was in another boat alongside. In the night Pearsall called to her and said she was in great pain, and witness went to her and remained a quarter of an hour, returning then to her own boat. The next morning she again saw Pearsall who said she was easier. **John Arnold**, brother of last witness, said that about three o'clock on the morning named, he heard something fall into the water from the boat in which Pearsall was.

Police-constable Yardley spoke to having apprehended the prisoner at Tring, where he found her, very ill, in the cabin of her boat. On being charged with the offence, she denied all knowledge of it. Dr Nason gave evidence to the effect that in his opinion the child had breathed, and also that the prisoner had recently been confined.

The jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against the prisoner, who was committed for trial at the ensuing Warwick Assizes.

39 6 November 1875

NUNEATON PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY OCTOBER 28

GAME TRESPASS **Stephen Edwards**, boatman, pleaded guilty to trespassing on land in the occupation of Thomas Clarke, farmer of Attleborough, on the 9th inst, and was fined 5s and costs 15s 6d.

40 4 December 1875

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30

CHARGE OF INDECENT ASSAULT **Thomas Allen**, boatman, was brought up on a warrant and charged with indecently assaulting a girl named Clara Woodward on the 27th July 1873 at Nuneaton. The girl, who was at the time ten years of age, gave evidence as to what had occurred in the cabin of the boat, but the Bench considered the evidence not sufficient to convict, and dismissed the case. Mr Slingsby appeared for the defendant.

41 25 December 1875

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY LAST

GOOSE STEALING **William Smith**, a boatman, was charged with having stolen a goose, value 5s, the property of Mr Robert Spencer of Flecknoe. Mr Fernell, from the office of E Harris, Rugby, appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Rugby and Dunchurch Association, of which Mr Spencer was a member. Two youths named James and Fred Woodward deposed that they saw two of Mr Spencer's geese on the Warwick and Braunston canal near his house, when prisoner was passing along with his boat. They saw him first set a dog at the geese, and then strike one of them with his boat hook and then draw it on board. Prisoner admitted taking the goose, but said he returned it to the canal immediately after. He was apprehended at Hawkesbury Colliery by PC Gartenfield, but the goose was not then found. Committed for three weeks with hard labour.

42 1 January 1876

LOWER SHUCKBURGH

CORONER'S INQUEST An inquest was held at the house of Mr Geo Bull at Lower Shuckburgh on Thursday last, before W S Poole Esq, coroner for South Warwickshire, on view of the body of **Rice Alfred Hyatt**, aged 22. It appeared from the evidence of **John Woodfield**, a boatman, that on Monday morning he and the deceased were unloading coal from a boat at Mr Bull's wharf, when the deceased suddenly reeled and expired. He had not complained of feeling unwell, nor had he used more than ordinary exertion. A S Gell Esq, surgeon, Southam, said he had made a *post mortem* examination of the body and found a rupture of the muscular system of the heart, which had caused death. The heart was unusually small, and not in its proper condition. There was an entire absence of fat in the body. Deceased's father was present, and said he lost another son two years ago from heart disease. The jury returned a verdict that deceased died from rupture of the heart while unloading a coal barge.

43 6 May 1876

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

ALLOWING ASSES TO STRAY **James Parker**, late of Polesworth but now of Coventry, boatman, was summoned for allowing three asses, of which he was the owner, to stray upon the highway in the parish of Polesworth, on the 27th ult. Defendant not appearing, the case was heard in his absence. PS Poultney proved the service of the summons, and afterwards gave evidence in support of the charge. The defendant, who had been previously cautioned, was fined 7s 6d and costs 14s 6d, or in default 21 days' imprisonment with hard labour.

44 10 June 1876

ASSAULT **Samuel West**, boatman, was charged with assaulting Martha Brotherington at Nuneaton on the 3rd inst. Defendant was also charged with assaulting Sarah Jane Newcombe at the same time and place. Defendant pleaded not guilty. Martha Brotherington said : On the day named, the defendant came to my mother's door, which was locked, and began to kick it. I came up at the same time, and the defendant struck me three times, and then the complainant Newcombe came up, and the defendant knocked her senseless and made her a black eye. The complainant Newcombe said : I saw the defendant strike the complainant Brotherington, and went up to them, whereupon the defendant struck me twice and knocked me down senseless and made me a black eye." Defendant said he went to see the brother of the complainant Brotherington, and wished to go into the house, but was refused. Defendant acknowledged striking Newcombe, but not Brotherington. Amos West, uncle to defendant, said the complainants gave the defendant great provocation, and then defendant struck Newcombe, but not the other complainant, they insulting him first. Fined 5s and costs 15s 6d in each case. Mr Skey said Saturday night "larking" was expensive work ; defendant ought to be fined more, but as the expenses were heavy, he would only be fined 5s in each case.

45 19 August 1876

PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 16

ASSAULTS AND REFUSING TO QUIT **Henry Smith**, boatman, was charged with assaulting William Boswell at Braunston, also with assaulting Olivia, wife of William Boswell. Complainant, an inn keeper and farmer, said the defendant, in a state of intoxication, went to his house about half past eleven o'clock on the morning of the 10th instant, wanting some beer, which complainant refused to let him have while in that state. The defendant refused to leave the house, and complainant attempted to put him out. Defendant knocked complainant down, and kicked him, and tore his shirt off. Walter Waite, baker, corroborated complainant's statement. Witness went for the police. Olivia Boswell, wife of the complainant, saw the defendant come to the house drunk ; he wanted beer, but her husband refused to let him have any. He forced his way into the house, and would not go out. Her husband tried to put him out, when he knocked him down and kicked him. After the defendant was got out, witness was standing at the door, and the defendant went at her, and with his fist struck her on the chin. In reply to defendant : I did not wag my finger at you. Walter Waite said he saw the defendant strike Mrs Boswell on the chin. The defendant said Thomas Beecham asked him to have a drink of beer ; the complainant wanted to prevent him going into the house, but he was determined to go in. Complainant struck him and put him out. As to Mrs Boswell, she was making a row, saying "this, that and t'other" and so – defendant pulled up in his story, and Captain Stopford observed, "You thought you would stop her jaw by breaking it". The Chairman said this was an unprovoked assault under the influence of drink. Mr Boswell, much to his credit, did wisely in refusing to supply drink to an intoxicated man. Instead of regarding this as a kindness, the defendant returned a savage and brutal assault, for which he would be imprisoned for two months with hard labour ; one month for the assault on the complainant, and one month for the assault on his wife. The Bench approved of the conduct of complainant, and ordered the costs to be charged to the county.

46 2 September 1876

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 30

ASSAULT **John Higgins**, boatman, was charged with assaulting **Ephraim Mocklow** at Norton on the 16th inst. Mr Cresswell appeared for the defendant. Complainant, also a boatman, said he was passing by the Norton stables about one o'clock in the day. The defendant wanted to get through the locks first, though complainant's boat was first. To hinder complainant, defendant's mate stopped complainant's horse, and getting his own boat first threw it athwart the canal. Defendant struck complainant many times on the face, ribs and back, but complainant never struck defendant. By Mr Cresswell : We came out of Welton tunnel before the defendant's boat. I did not challenge the defendant to race. It is customary for boats to pass, if one boat overtakes another. There were several people standing by at the time of the assault. John Holland assists his father, who is agent for the Canal Company. He saw the parties racing with the boats. He saw Higgins strike Mocklow several times and Mocklow fell, but whether from the effect of Higgins's blows he could not say. He did not see Mocklow strike Higgins. One of Higgins's men stopped Mocklow's horse and got his boat first. The assault was before Higgins got his boat past. By Mr Cresswell : I am quite sure Higgins struck Mocklow. Mr Cresswell said Mocklow, on leaving the tunnel, challenged Higgins to race. Mocklow struck Higgins, who did not hit him at all. He then called **George Wilson**, another boatman, who said he could not read nor write ; he had had no education and did not understand the nature of an oath. The Bench hesitated about taking this witness's evidence, but allowed him to be sworn on his saying he knew the difference between telling the truth and telling a lie. He said he saw Mocklow strike the first blow. Higgins asked him to attend. **John Dimmock**, boatman, could neither read nor write. Had never been to school. He saw Mocklow strike Higgins, and then Higgins struck him again. He had not talked about the matter to anybody. He knew the case was coming on for hearing, because Higgins told him. The Bench said there was no doubt whatever that an assault had been committed. There was the evidence of a respectable and independent witness. The defendant's witnesses did not help him much. Fined 10s and costs 17s 6d.

47 28 October 1876

NUNEATON PETTY SESSIONS, OCTOBER 26

DRUNK ON LICENSED PREMISES **Jno Boyard**, boatman, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises, the Anchor Inn, Hartshill, on the 30th ult. He was further charged with being there at an unlawful hour, that is after eleven o'clock at night. The defendant pleaded guilty. Superintendent Walker stated the cases and the defendant was ordered to pay fine and costs £3 1s.

48 18 November 1876

COUNTY COURT, THURSDAY

DISPUTED OWNERSHIP **Richard Barnwell** of Hillmorton, boatman v William Barnwell of the same place, engine driver. Claim 15s for damages by trespass on a garden. Plaintiff said he had given the defendant (who was his son) a piece of land to build a house upon, but he had taken five yards more than he should have done. His Honour, after looking at a plan and copy of a deed produced by the parties, said it was a pity they could not settle it out of court. The plaint had been wrongly entered, and therefore he could not decide the case then. They would have to enter it under another Act, and pay fees to the amount of three guineas, which was more than the land was worth. He advised them to let some land surveyor or other person decide the boundaries for them. The case was struck out, and the hearing fees were ordered to be returned.

49 16 December 1876

PETTY SESSIONS, DECEMBER 13

ASSAULT **Thomas Bromwich**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with assaulting **William Swanwick** at Whilton. Complainant said he with his boat was following the defendant's boat, and wanted to pass. The defendant knocked down the boy that was leading the horse, and threw stones at complainant with great force. The stones did not hit him, but struck and damaged the side of the boat near where he stood. The defendant admitted throwing the stones, but said he should not have done so but for complainant calling his sister names. Fined 1s and £1 3s 10d costs, or one month.

50 16 December 1876

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY DECEMBER 12

DRUNK AND RESISTING THE POLICE **William Poulton**, a boatman from Banbury, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit licensed premises at Polesworth when requested to do so, on the 9th inst. Defendant pleaded guilty. The accused was further charged with having resisted the police, while in the execution of their duty, on the same day. To the latter charge he pleaded not guilty. After hearing the evidence of William Hartshorne, corroborated by PC Tarrant, Mr Sale, addressing the prisoner, said the Bench considered that both the charges had been clearly proved, and the accused would, for the first offence, be fined £1 and costs 11s, or in default of payment, he would be imprisoned for one month with hard labour ; while, for the second offence, he would be committed to prison for two months with hard labour.

51 13 January 1877

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JANUARY 10

SELLING BEER WITHOUT A LICENCE John Norman, Barby Wharf, was charged with selling beer without a licence. Mr Andrews conducted this case. Jesse Frost of the County Police, stationed at Spratton, said he went to the defendant's house with a boatman named **Thomas Pearsall**, on the 20th November about nine o'clock at night. It is a private house at Barby Wharf. Pearsall put his horse in the stable, and he and witness went to the door of the house. Pearsall said to the defendant's wife, "I will pay you for the horse, and I want a pint of beer". She replied, "Very well ; come in and shut the door". She fetched the beer and received a shilling. She gave Pearsall 6d out, taking for the horse and the beer. They drank the beer, and Pearsall called for a second pint and afterwards for a third, for each of which he paid. After these were drunk, witness called for a pint, which was bought and for which he paid. Pearsall then said he should want to start early in the

morning, so he would have a quart to take to the boat. Witness said he would like a pint to go with the quart. It was served to them, and they took it to the boat in a tea kettle. Mr Andrews said the defendant, who is a coal dealer and occupies about ten acres of land, has no licence to sell beer. Superintendent Baillie said he had a warrant to search the defendant's house on the 21st of November. He saw the defendant and told him, when the defendant said he would not find any beer. Witness found 14 empty beer barrels, some of them had cards upon them showing that they were sent from Lewis and Ridley, Leamington ; two of them dated November 12, only nine days before, were empty. Those two had taps in them. The defendant had, some years ago, a licence to sell beer off the premises, but was convicted of offences under that licence. He had now no licence at all. Mr Andrews said that, before reporting the case, it was his duty to see the defendant, which he did, and then the defendant admitted the offence. He wished, with all deference, to suggest to the Bench not to exercise, in this case, their mitigating powers. The Bench said the defendant would be fined in the full penalty of £20, for there was not one extenuating circumstance in the case.

52 20 January 1877

NUNEATON POLICE INTELLIGENCE, THURSDAY JANUARY 18

A BOATMAN IN LIQUOR **James Kibbler**, boatman of Warwick, was charged with being drunk in Wash Lane, Nuneaton, on the 12th inst. Fined 5s and costs, or in default of payment, to be imprisoned for fourteen days.

53 2 June 1877

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY MAY 29 **Charles Eaton**, boatman, was charged with being drunk at Polesworth on the 23rd inst. The defendant pleaded guilty. PS Poultney said : About 11 o'clock at night, I saw defendant leave the Bull's Head Inn, Polesworth. He was very drunk and noisy, and in about an hour and a half afterwards, I heard cries of "murder" issuing from the defendant's boat cabin. He had got his wife down in the boat, and was beating her. I could not get at him, as the boat was in the middle of the canal. Defendant afterwards came out on to the cabin, and used threatening and bad language to me. Fined 10s and costs 13s 6d.

54 25 August 1877

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 19 1877 **George Baylis**, boatman, was summoned for allowing a horse to stray upon the highway. This was an adjourned case from last sessions. Defendant did not appear, but sent his daughter, he being from home. The daughter now said that her father had not returned, but she wished to plead guilty to the charge. Her father was willing to pay the expenses. Inspector Walch said this was simply a case of straying, and he should be satisfied if defendant paid the expenses, Case dismissed on payment of costs.

55 24 November 1877

NUNEATON POLICE INTELLIGENCE, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 22

CHARGE OF FOWL STEALING **Alfred James Clarke**, boatman of Wolverhampton, was brought up in custody on the charge of stealing one fowl, the property of Thomas Congreave of the Royal Oak Inn, Polesworth, on the 21st inst, and was remanded to the Atherstone Petty Sessions next Tuesday.

56 22 December 1877

NUNEATON PETTY SESSIONS, DECEMBER 20

CRUELTY TO A DONKEY **Joseph Chenier**, boatman, was fined £1 and 14s costs for ill treating a donkey at Nuneaton on the 1st inst, by working the same while in an unfit state.

57 9 February 1878

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7

ASSAULT **W Bromwich**, boatman, was charged with assaulting and beating Ann Hartshorn at Polesworth on the 28th ult. Complainant said : I had been with my husband to Tamworth, and when we returned, we found defendant in the house (the Bull's Head Inn, Polesworth). He was disorderly, and my husband went to eject him, when he assaulted and struck me. We had had to put him out before. Fined 10s and costs 17s.

58 23 March 1878

RUGBY COUNTY COURT, THURSDAY LAST

William Barnwell, Hillmorton, engine driver v **Richard Barnwell** of the same place, boatman.

This was a suit to compel the specific performance of an agreement on the part of the defendant to sell a house and premises in the Lower Street, Hillmorton, now in his own occupation, signed and dated the 26th July 1877. Mr Wratlaw for the plaintiff and Mr James, Leicester, for the defendant. The parties are father and son, and after several unsuccessful attempts on the part of the latter to amicably settle the business, he had been compelled to come to the Court. After inspecting the documents, his Honour made an order for the performance, but suggested that the whole of the property should be sold and the sum proportionately divided between the parties, otherwise he was afraid, from the wording of one of the documents, it would all be squandered in litigation.

59 30 March 1878

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, MARCH 27

DISREGARD OF VACCINATION ORDERS **Thomas Monk**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with neglecting the vaccination of his child. Mr Kilburn deposed to having given the requisite notices, all of which had been disregarded. The defendant's wife appeared, and said the child was sickly, but she produced no medical certificate. Fined 5s and costs 9s 6d.

60 8 June 1878

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, TOWN HALL, JUNE 3

Joseph Matthews, boatman, was charged with having worked a horse and donkey while in an unfit state on the 20th May last. PC Swingler said that he saw the horse and donkey at Marston Doles. He examined them, and found that they were not in a fit state to work. The horse had a large raw place upon the shoulder. He was also lame. Defendant wanted him to allow him to travel on to Banbury. The donkey had also a sore upon his shoulder as large as the palm of his hand, and was covered with corruption. It was an old wound. Inspector Welch said he saw them the following day. He considered that the constable was perfectly justified in stopping the defendant. The owner said he had not seen them for a fortnight until now. He saw the horse, which was badly galled. He considered that the wet weather had in a great measure contributed to the pinch. The lameness was caused by being pricked in shoeing. He always gave instructions to his men about his horses being properly treated and looked after. PC Swingler said the horse was now lame, though it had been locked up a fortnight. The sore was not well yet. It was quite as large as a crown piece. The Bench ordered defendant to pay a fine of 6s 6d with the expenses 13s 6d.

Thomas Kendle was charged with being drunk and fighting at Birdingbury Wharf. Defendant did not appear, but sent a woman to ask that the case might be heard in his absence, he being obliged to go with his boat to London. PC Waite said he was on duty about 1 1/2 miles away at about closing time, when he heard a great noise as if people were quarrelling in the direction of Birdingbury Wharf. When he got near, he saw the defendant with three others upon the canal bridge ; he was stripped to his skin and fighting with another man. They were using bad language. Kendle put on his clothes when requested to do so and went home. Inspector Welch said there were three other summonses taken out against the others, which they had been unable to serve. He asked the Bench to redate the same. The Bench in the present case imposed a fine of 7s 6d, with 15s expenses.

61 15 June 1878

PETTY SESSIONS, JUNE 12

FELONY **Samuel Scattergood**, boatman, was charged with stealing seven pieces of brass, a pilot coat, a pair of shoes and two sheets, at Norton Locks on June 11th, the property of **Samuel Warwick**. Prosecutor said he left his boat at Norton Locks at four o'clock on Tuesday morning, and went to Braunston, returning at eight o'clock at night. When he returned he heard what had occurred, and he asked the prisoner if he had been in his (prosecutor's) cabin, and he said he knew nothing about them. Witness told him if he had them to put them back, and he should go free ; but if not he should send for a constable. Prisoner made no further answer, and witness sent for the police. The things produced were those he lost, and were worth about 8s. Inspector Browning was going from Buckby to Daventry on Tuesday night, when he met three boys, and in consequence of what they said he went to Norton Locks, and to the prisoner's boat, when the prisoner pointed out the things as those he took from prosecutor's cabin. Prisoner elected the summary justice of the Court, and pleaded guilty. Committed for six weeks.

62 6 July 1878

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, JULY 1

J Kendal, boatman, was charged with being drunk and riotous, and using very abusive language, at Birdingbury Wharf on the 3rd of June last. Defendant pleaded guilty, and in extenuation said it was the first time he had ever been summoned before the Bench, and he was very sorry. Ordered to pay a fine, with expenses, of £1 2s.

63 13 July 1878

SAD CASE OF DROWNING On Tuesday evening last, Thomas Dewes Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the White Horse Inn, Nuneaton, on view of the body of a boy named **William Henry Jones**, six years of age, the son of **George Jones**, a boatman. Mr John Nicholson Black was foreman of the jury. George Jones deposed : I live in Nuneaton, and am a boatman. The body the jury have seen is that of my son. He was six years of age. On Saturday last my boat was moored in the canal near the Punch Bowl Bridge, and the deceased was playing about. When I went to the boat about one o'clock in the daytime on Saturday last, I saw the deceased's hat floating on the water. That caused me to make a search. On examining the spot, I saw the deceased under the water. He was quite covered ; I could just see the hair of his head. I pulled him out at once. Mr Cookson, surgeon, who happened to be passing at the time, was called in, and did all in his power for the boy. He also attended the deceased until his death, which took place at 10.30 on Monday morning. I believe it was quite an accidental occurrence. Mr A N Cookson, surgeon of Nuneaton, deposed : On Saturday afternoon last, I was called to see the deceased, who was reported to be drowned. When I examined him, the body was cold and apparently lifeless. On making efforts at artificial respiration, he slightly sighed, and continued for a quarter of an hour, when he began to breathe. I then ordered a warm bath, and afterwards wrapped him in a warm blanket. He remained unconscious for several hours, and the next morning he became highly feverish, with rattling at the chest. These symptoms continued until the following morning, when he died. In my opinion, the cause of death was congestion of the lungs and exhaustion, consequent on the submersion in the water. The Coroner having briefly summed up, the Jury returned as their verdict, "That the deceased died of congestion of the lungs, consequent to an accidental immersion in the Coventry Canal".

64 17 August 1878

NUNEATON POLICE INTELLIGENCE, THURSDAY AUGUST 15

CHARGE OF STEALING A HORSE **Henry Broadfield**, boatman of Birmingham, was brought up in custody on the charge of having feloniously stolen, at Polesworth on the 10th inst, a horse, value £6, the property of George Jones, coal merchant, residing at Birmingham. The prosecutor said : I am a corn(*sic*) merchant residing at Birmingham. On the 8th inst, I sent the defendant, who

is in my service as a boatman, to Messrs Morris and Shave's Colliery at Polesworth, with a boat. He had orders to bring back a boat load of coals to my wharf, and report himself on his arrival. The boat and horse are my property. On Saturday night, when he was due home with the boat, the prisoner's mate reported to me that he (the prisoner) had sold the horse for £3 10s to a publican, and that he was spending the money. I accordingly gave information to the police. I saw the horse this morning in the custody of the police, and I identify it as mine. John Tomlinson of the Chetwynd Arms Hotel, Polesworth, said the prisoner came there on Thursday night, and asked for stabling for his horse. He afterwards asked witness to buy the horse, and said his governor had told him he might sell the animal if he could get a good price. He asked witness £4, but he offered him £3, and ultimately purchased it for £3 10s. Witness first asked the prisoner's mate if he should be doing right in buying the horse, and he replied that the master had said that if he could get £4 for it, he might sell it. The prisoner said he would sell the animal for £3 10s, and that if his master was not satisfied he would pay the remaining 10s out of his own pocket. Witness gave prisoner a note to show to his master, to the effect that he had purchased the horse for £3 10s, and he told him that if his master was not satisfied with the price, he might send the money back, and he (witness) would return the horse. Prisoner missed the train that night and came back to his (witness's) house, where he had a few pints of ale with others. He afterwards left witness's house, but came again on Sunday morning. PC Butlin of Birmingham testified that on Sunday evening last, he apprehended the prisoner in Barn Street, Birmingham. He told him he would be charged with selling a horse belonging to his master, and he replied, "When the drink's in, the wit's out". PC (?Hoxton) of Polesworth said that from information received, he went to Birmingham on Wednesday and received the prisoner into his custody. He said to him, "You know the charge", and he replied, "Yes". Prisoner said he did not know about the claim on the horse. It was, he added, through some relations that he had sold it, and he had offered to pay Mr Jones for it. He asked witness, on the way to Polesworth, whether he had better plead guilty or not to the charge. In reply, witness told him he must plead his own case. Prisoner further said that if the case had been heard in Birmingham on the previous day, he should have pleaded guilty. In answer to the Bench, prosecutor stated that the prisoner never offered to pay him for the horse. The accused was formally committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions at Warwick. The prosecutor made application to the Bench for the horse to be restored to him, but the Magistrates, after consulting in private, said that as the prisoner had not yet been convicted, they could not accede to the appellant's request. Their Court was merely one of inquiry, and in such cases as this, they had no power to convict. The animal must therefore remain in charge of the police until the case had been dealt with at the Quarter Sessions.

65 24 August 1878

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY AUGUST 22

FISHING **Henry Woodward**, boatman of Nuneaton, was charged on the information of Charles Townsend, gamekeeper, with attempting to take fish otherwise than by angling, from the Coventry Canal at Grendon, over which Sir George Chetwynd, Bart, has the private right of fishing, on the 17th inst. Defendant pleaded guilty. Mr Bland, who prosecuted, said that by the Act of Parliament the right of fishing was reserved to the Lord of the Manor, or to the owners of the land on each side of the canal. On the day named, the defendant had a large net tied at the end of his boat in the water. Charles Townsend, the informant, gave evidence in support of the charge, and said that when he questioned the defendant as to who had given him leave to fish, he replied that the Canal Company had given him permission to do so. The accused stated that he had spent the whole of his life upon canals, and had never known that he was doing wrong in taking fish from the water. Fined 10s and costs 17s.

66 30 November 1878

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 27

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **John Court**, boatman, Birmingham, was charged with cruelty to a

horse, by not providing for its care and sustenance, or putting an end to its misery. The defendant did not appear, and the service of the summons having been proved, the Bench decided to hear the case in defendant's absence. Joseph Quinny, labourer, Floore, said he helped to pull a horse out of the canal near Brookhall on the 24th of October about half past two in the afternoon. The horse was in very poor condition. PC Dell said when he served the summons on the defendant, he told the witness he sold the horse to George Thompson, at Whilton Locks, for 5s, about an hour and a half after it was got out of the water, and Thompson was to take all risks ; he said he told Thompson the horse was not dead when he left. George Thompson, blacksmith of Whilton Locks, said he bought a grey horse on the 24th of October about ten o'clock at night of John Court for 5s ; he bought it as a dead horse. Fined £1 and costs £2 1s 6d, or two months.

67 30 November 1878

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 27

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Emanuel Pearsall**, boatman, Tring, was charged with cruelty to a horse at Whilton on the 11th of November. Mr Roche for the defendant. Andrew Duncan, an Inspector of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said he was on the canal bank in the parish of Whilton on the 11th inst, when he saw a black mare walking lame. He examined the animal, when he found it had a diseased fetlock. It was much swollen, inflamed and suppurated. Under the collar he found two large and raw wounds, from which blood and matter adhered to the collar. PC Dell, who was with the last witness at the time, corroborated his statement. Mr Roche, for the defence, admitted the existence of the wounds, and pleaded hard for the defendant, but at the close the Chairman said there was ample and clear evidence that the horse was not in a fit state to be worked, and that it was a great act of cruelty to work it. Fined £3 and costs 19s 10d, or two months.

68 19 April 1879

BRAUNSTON

NON REGISTRATION OF A CANAL BOAT At the Coventry Petty Sessions on Saturday last, William Howell, coal merchant, Braunston Wharf, Rugby, was charged by **William Wright**, Inspector of canal boats, that he, being the owner of a certain boat, did, in contravention of the Canal Boats Act, cause or permit the said boat to be used as a dwelling place, without having previously had it registered, in conformity with the provision of the said Act. The defendant pleaded that he had applied to have the boat registered at Daventry, but was told that it could not be registered there, and he did not know where to apply. The boat was an old one and was seldom used. This was the first time that his business had caused him to send a boat to Coventry. Mr Browett, Town Clerk, prosecuted, and in opening the case said, in reply to Mr Howell's remarks, that it was not for the authorities to go to him, but for him to come to the authorities and see that his boat was properly registered. All owners of boats had had abundant time allowed them to get their boats registered. The defendant's plea was taken as not guilty. The first witness examined was William Wright, Inspector of canal boats for the City of Coventry, who said that about two o'clock on Wednesday the 2nd April, he was examining boats on the canal within the City of Coventry. He saw an unregistered boat with the name *Perseverance* upon it, and also bearing the defendant's name. The cabin was in a very dirty state, the cupboards and side locker were broken, the cross bed was broken, and a sack of chaff appeared to have been used for a bed. The boatman acknowledged that the boat had been slept in, but said it would not be used much longer. The boat was not fit for a dwelling, and he (witness) could not have passed it for registration on any account. On the afternoon of the same day, witness received a message that the boat should not be used after the following Monday. The defendant again said that he did not know where to go to register the boat, and Mr Browett informed him that he might go to any registering authority upon the canal upon which his boats plied. The defendant called William White, Inspector of nuisances for the Daventry Sanitary Authority, who said that the defendant had called upon him to ask him to register the boat, but he told him that he could not do it. Ultimately the Magistrates said that there appeared to have been some ignorance of the law on the part of the defendant, and a want of knowledge as to where

to get his boat registered. A nominal fine of 2s 6d only was imposed, with costs.

69 21 June 1879

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS **Samuel Barlow**, boatman, Bedworth, was summoned for causing two donkeys to be worked whilst in an unfit state at (?Kasenhall) on June 7th and pleaded guilty. Sergeant Webb said that on the day named he met two donkeys on the tow-path of the canal. One was unable to set one foot to the ground, and was walking on three feet. He stopped the other and found two wounds on it, one the size of a shilling piece, and another the size of a half crown. The one with the sores was doing all the work, the other being quite unable to pull. Witness took both the animals back to the Boat Inn, where defendant, the owner of them, came to fetch them on the following Sunday. There were three men on the boat at the time the donkeys were being worked, but witness did not know who was the driver. The owner was not there at the time, and he had summoned defendant as he claimed the animals. Defendant said the donkey that was lame was made so through the shoes being put on too tight ; it was the fault of the blacksmith. The sores on the other one he accounted for by its having to do the work of the other animal, and the weather being so rainy. Fined £1 and expenses 18s 6d.

70 26 July 1879

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JULY 24

William Wilday, boatman, was charged with allowing two of his asses to stray at Polesworth on the 18th inst. Defendant had previously been warned by PS Hawkes, but he was let off with paying the costs.

71 2 August 1879

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JULY 30

NEGLECTING TO HAVE A CHILD VACCINATED **William Wright**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with neglecting to have his child vaccinated. Defendant's wife's mother attended, and said the child was vaccinated the previous day. As the law had been, though tardily, complied with, the Bench did not wish to increase the costs, and adjourned the case for a week to allow time for the defendant to pay 7s costs.

72 27 September 1879

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS. SEPTEMBER 23

STEALING A BRIDLE, BIT AND REIN **George Boughton** was charged with stealing a bridle, bit and rein, the property of **Abraham Cleaver**, at Braunston on the 21st of September. Prosecutor said he was a boatman, and arrived at Braunston last Saturday night and put up his horse at the Castle. On Sunday morning, he missed his bridle, bit and rein and, knowing that only another party with a boat had been in the stable before him, he followed them along the canal. He overtook a boat which the prisoner was steering near Hillmorton. He asked the prisoner if he had his bridle, bit and rein. Prisoner said he did not know anything about it. Prosecutor told him he had better give it up. Prisoner threw the bridle to prosecutor on the towing path. Prosecutor put the matter into the hands of the police. The value of the articles was 2s 6d. William Stopford of the Warwickshire police, apprehended the prisoner at Clifton on Sunday. When he told him the charge, he said, "Oh". On the way he said, "I took the bridle, bit and reins. I hid the bit somewhere, and he does not know where it is". He said he thought it was one taken from him some time ago. Defendant elected the summary jurisdiction of the Court, and pleaded guilty. Committed for three months with hard labour.

73 4 October 1879

RUGBY COUNTY COURT, THURSDAY

CLAIM FOR WAGES **David Macdonald**, a boy aged 16 of Hillmorton, sued **John Sheers**, Stow

Hill, Weedon, boatman, for £2 7s 6d for 21 weeks' work. The defence was that all the wages were not earned by reason of the frost, and a set off for clothes &c supplied, and money paid was also claimed. Plaintiff said he was engaged to drive a canal boat belonging to defendant's master. The canal was frozen up for a long time, during which he did nothing, but lived on the boat. During the first frost he was always down at the boat. The agreement was for 5s a week and his food. The defendant had supplied him with trousers, which were to be 5s 6d, and some shoes, 10s, which had been deducted. He did not receive 3s 4d to spend for pocket money, but only 4d. Did not have a hat, neck-tie, stockings or another pair of boots, or old trousers. By defendant : The missus did not cut up a pair of trousers to make them fit, but I had a pair of old trousers, which were paid for. Did not wear a pair of your light boots out ; you gave me them. Did not have two pairs of stockings at Warwick. Edward Goode, stepfather of the plaintiff, deposed to making the bargain about a month after last Michaelmas. He received the boy's wages up to the 14th December. The boat was frozen up about a fortnight or three weeks altogether. The boy left in May, and he had not been paid any wages for the time after the frost broke up. Defendant said the boy went to him on the 17th November. The frost began on the 11th December, and they were frozen in at Pooley Hall, Tamworth, and neither him nor the boy earned a penny till the 11th February. After the frost broke, he wanted the boy to take his money home to his parents, when he used bad language, and said if he took it home for 20 years he should never have anything bought with it, and so the clothes were bought for the lad since the frost broke up, and he had also lost a whip and broken a lantern. The boy was living with him on the barge from the 11th December till a fortnight before the frost went, and then he took the horse to the (????) at Weedon and worked there for 3 weeks. The boy said they were only frozen up at Pooley Hall for a month. His Honour ruled that plaintiff was entitled to wages for all the time he was actually on the boat, whether he was able to work or not. He was there, and at the disposal of the plaintiff. The three weeks he was away would be deducted, and allowing for other things, he gave a verdict for £1 14s 5d, by instalments of 12s a month.

74 29 November 1879

ATHERSTONE

A BARGE BOY DROWNED AT MEREVALE On Wednesday afternoon, the district coroner, T Dewes Esq, held an enquiry at the King's Head Inn, Grendon, as to the death of a lad named **Samuel Wheatcroft**. Deceased was thirteen years of age, and in the employ of a boatman named **John Barton**. At ten o'clock on Monday morning last, deceased and Barton started from Bedworth in a boat for Amington Colliery. They were delayed three hours at Hartshill and did not arrive at the locks at Merevale until 6.22 pm. It was deceased's duty to manage the windlass, and when the boat arrived at the locks, Barton could see nothing of him. On looking around, he saw the windlass laid on the balance pole, about a yard from the locks. He also noticed deceased's hat in the water, and raised an alarm. Assistance was obtained, and the lad's body was soon afterwards found in the water. Dr Hales of Atherstone was sent for, and did his best to restore animation, but without success. The medical gentleman found an abrasion over the right eye, but that was doubtless caused by coming in contact with the wall of the lock. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned".

75 6 December 1879

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, DECEMBER 1

W Banks, a boatman, was brought up in custody charged with stealing an ash pole, value 3s, the property of the Right Hon Earl Spencer, at Wormleighton on the 13th November last. Mr E Scriven said on the day in question he saw the defendant on the towing path near his house with the pole. He charged him with having cut the same. The defendant said he had cut it for a shaft for his boat. He thought the plantation belonged to the Canal Company. Ordered to pay costs, 13s 6d.

76 3 January 1880

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, DECEMBER 31

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY **John Carter**, boatman, Braunston, against whom a warrant was ordered to issue last week, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 13th of December. PC Sorrill said he saw the defendant about half past ten at night. He was on the ground in the street and several persons were trying to get him up, while he was swearing and making a disturbance. He was very drunk. Defendant said he was very sorry, but he had been ice breaking and had had but little to eat, and the beer took effect on him. Capt Stopford said it was a poor excuse to say he had but little to eat when he could find money for drink. The expenses were heavy, for which defendant was to blame in not appearing to the summons. Fined 1s and costs 15s.

77 21 February 1880

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, FEBRUARY 16

REFUSING TO QUIT **Henry Monk**, boatman, was charged with the above offence. Defendant did not appear. A person named Samuel Tindale replied to the charge, and said the defendant was unable to attend, he being obliged to go to London with his boat. He was prepared to admit the charge and pay the fine inflicted by the Bench upon the defendant. JH Sanders said on the 7th February defendant was in his aunt's house, the Blue Line, Stockton. He was using very bad language, and insulted everybody in the house. I ultimately ordered him out, when he challenged me to fight. He came in about half past four o'clock and stayed until seven o'clock. I asked him to leave the house several times. There was no drink drawn for him during the time. Herbert Parsons said : I was at the Blue Line on the day in question. I saw the defendant and heard him making a great noise. I heard Sanders order him out, and the defendant refuse to go. He used very bad language. Sanders, in reply to the Bench, said he did not wish to press for a heavy fine. He wished to satisfy people that they must not come there and think that they can do as they like. This was not the first time he had threatened to send for a policeman to put him out. The Bench inflicted a fine of 15s with costs 14s 6d, which was paid.

78 26 June 1880

NUNEATON COUNTY COURT, SATURDAY JUNE 19

Aaron Tompowski, general dealer, Birmingham v **Thomas Barton**, boatman, Bedworth. Claim £2 5s 6d for goods sold. To pay 3s a month.

79 31 July 1880

PETTY SESSIONS TUESDAY

ILL TREATING A DONKEY **George Bates**, boatman, was charged with cruelly ill-treating a donkey by driving it whilst in an unfit state at Brinklow on the 9th inst. PS Webb stated that on the day in question, as he was walking along the canal side, he saw defendant driving two donkeys along. Not liking the appearance of one of them, he stopped and examined it, and found it to be in a very poor condition, and on its off shoulder he found a wound about one inch wide and two inches long, which was caused by the iron on the collar it had on pressing on its flesh. Defendant denied that the iron of the collar pressed on the donkey's shoulder, but admitted that the collar did not properly fit the animal. Mr Fitzroy said the Bench were of opinion that prisoner was guilty of the charge brought against him, and they fined him £1 and 16s expenses, or one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

80 20 November 1880

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

ILL TREATING A DONKEY **James Blagrove**, a boatman, and **Thomas Davenport**, a youth, were brought up charged with cruelly ill-treating a donkey by working it whilst in an unfit state, on the 5th inst. PC Stockford deposed that about 3 pm on the 5th inst, he was on duty on the canal bridge at Hillmorton Wharf, when he saw the defendants, who were in charge of a boat. Blagrove

was steering and the boy was driving the donkey. Davenport had a whip in his hand, with which he belaboured the donkey about the head and ears, and also kicked it on its hind legs. Witness went and examined the animal, and found on the off shoulder a large wound, from which blood and matter was oozing, and there was also a bad wound under the collar. Blagrove said he had come from Moira, and that the animal was in a bad state when it started. **Samuel Beachy**, the owner of the animal, said he started it off from Moira on Saturday with the boat, it being then quite free from wounds. Witness followed Blagrove with another boat on Monday, and was told by a passing boatman that his donkey was pulling two boats, whereupon he hurried after Blagrove to ask him what he meant by it. Superintendent Palmer said the boy Davenport had nothing to do with Blagrove's boat, but was driving an animal drawing another boat, and had simply gone back to assist the other defendant because he was single handed. The Bench considered the case proved, and fined Blagrove 2s and 13s 6d expenses, and in default he was sent to Warwick for 14 days. The boy was let off on payment of 10s 6d expenses only. Samuel Beachy was also charged with allowing the animal to be worked whilst in an unfit state. Defendant denied the charge, and the evidence against him not being sufficiently clear, the case was dismissed.

81 27 November 1880

MAGISTERIAL, WEDNESDAY

ALLEGED CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Enoch Simpson**, boatman of Foleshill, and his son, were brought up in custody charged with working a horse while in an unfit state. Early the same morning, a boat under the defendants' charge was met on the canal by PC Philpots. The horse drawing it had a bad callous lump on the point of the shoulder with a wound the size of a shilling on the top of it, besides other wounds at the bottom of the neck, all of which evidently caused great pain. Prisoners were remanded on bail till Tuesday.

82 22 January 1881

CLIFTON-ON-DUNSMORE

DEATH FROM A BURN On Tuesday afternoon, Mr W S Poole, coroner, held an inquiry at the Lawrence Sherriff's Arms Hotel, Rugby, respecting the death of **John Bottrill**, boatman of Clifton-on-Dunsmore, aged 60, who died in the Rugby Hospital from the effects of burns. From the evidence of Simon Freer, half brother of the deceased, it appeared that the deceased lived alone in a cottage on the waste at Clifton, which he held by "keyhole" possession. He was admitted to the Rugby Hospital about two months ago, and stayed till his decease. Last Friday, witness was sent for to the hospital, where he saw deceased, who was very ill, and who told him he burnt his leg before the fire. Mary Jane Rawlins of Clifton said she lived with her father near to the deceased. One Sunday afternoon, about two months ago, the deceased went into witness's house and told her he had burnt his knees by the fire. His trousers were not burnt in the least. He said he fell asleep in front of the fire, and did not find out that his knee had been scorched till he awoke. On the following day deceased showed her his knee, upon which there was a large burnt patch with the skin off. Deceased used to drink heavily, and had been out of work some time prior to his decease, in consequence, whatever money was given to him, he spent it in drink. A fortnight after the burn, deceased went into the hospital, and was attended by Mr Waller, who now said there was a deep burn the size of the hand upon the right knee, which looked very bad. He went on very well indeed towards recovery until about a fortnight before his death, when he had an attack of erysipelas to which he succumbed. Mr Waller could not get out of him how he did it, except that it was done by the fire. He was of opinion that it was quite possible for the skin to be scorched without the trousers being burnt. The erysipelas was caused by the wound. The Coroner expressed an opinion that the keeper of the public house referred to ought not to have let the old man drink so much night after night. A verdict that the deceased died from erysipelas caused by burns accidentally received was returned.

83 19 March 1881

PETTY SESSIONS, MARCH 16

REFUSING TO PRODUCE CERTIFICATE **John Baylis**, boatman, was charged with refusing to produce the certificate of the registry of his boat, at Braunston on the 25th February. William White, inspector to the Daventry Rural Sanitary Authority, saw the defendant with a boat called *Hermit*, belonging to Mr G Nelson, Stockton. On being asked for his certificate, the defendant said he had not one. The case was taken in the absence of the defendant, who was fined 20s and costs 10s 6d.

ANOTHER CASE **John Lines**, boatman, was charged with a like offence, on the same day and at the same place. William White said he saw the defendant and asked him for his certificate. He was in charge of a boat called the *Alfred George*, the property of Mr G Simmons. He had no certificate. Fined 20s and costs 9s 6d.

84 21 May 1881

MAGISTERIAL, FRIDAY

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Jeremiah Skidmore**, boatman, was charged with cruelly working a horse the same morning, and pleaded guilty. PC Stockford proved seeing the horse drawing two boats on the canal, and observing that it wriggled about, he examined its shoulders and found wounds which he described. In defence prisoner had nothing to say, except that the horse was in good condition, and being an old servant they did not want to part with it. Mr Fitzroy, who had examined the horse, said it was not in good condition, and the shoulders were in a terrible state. Fined £1 including costs. **Martha Pickerell**, the owner of the horse, and who was steering one of the boats, paid the money.

85 21 May 1881

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, MAY 18

UNLAWFULLY EMPLOYING A CHILD **Edmund Bennett**, boatman, Braunston, was summoned for habitually employing his son **Joseph**, who is not exempt from attendance at school. The summons probably had not reached him, as he was out with his boat. The case was adjourned for a week.

86 28 May 1881

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, MAY 25

SCHOOL BOARD CASES **Edmund Bennett**, boatman, Braunston, was summoned for employing his child who was not exempted from school. Defendant's wife appeared. J Birch, school attendance officer, proved the charge. Fined 5s and costs 10s 6d. Allowed 14 days to pay.

87 2 July 1881

NUNEATON

DEATH ON A CANAL BOAT An inquest was held on Monday at Rothersthorpe by Mr W Terry, County Coroner, at the Chequers, Rothersthorpe, on the body of **Thomas Buckler**, who lived at Chilvers Coton near Nuneaton. **John Proctor**, boatman, brother-in-law to the deceased, said he was a boatman and was about 32 years of age. He had been engaged taking a load of timber to Northampton. He had delivered the timber, and was returning with the boat empty on Sunday. The boat was lying at the top lock of the Northampton Branch. The deceased seemed much as usual, but after going a short distance, witness observed the deceased leaning over the chest in his cabin as if in pain. He, in reply to a question by witness, said he thought he should have died. The helm of the boat had been thrown off by an accident, and the deceased had been trying to put it on, and witness thought he overstrained himself. Witness advised him to go into the cabin and lie down, but he said he would go on, and did so for a distance. After getting to the third lock, the deceased called out, "Jack, come and steer". The deceased then went and lay down on the bed on his chest with his legs along the cabin. When witness with the lock-keeper was trying to take his waistcoat off, deceased gave a gasp, and the lock-keeper said he was dead. The deceased never moved or spoke afterwards.

Witness stated that two or three weeks previously, deceased had been an out patient in a London hospital. Mr Isaac Thompson, surgeon, Blisworth, said he was sent for to see the deceased. He examined him externally and found no marks of violence. From what he had heard, he concluded that there had been an aneurysm of the aorta, which burst at the time deceased exerted himself, and that would cause death. That would not necessarily occasion any blood to be seen externally. The aorta was a large blood vessel leading into the centre of the heart. Witness saw no reason to suspect that any violence had been used towards deceased. A verdict in accordance with the medical testimony was returned.

88 2 July 1881

PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

AN OVERLOADED BOATMAN **William Stanger** was charged with being drunk at Rugby on Tuesday night, and pleaded guilty. About midnight, Sergeant Cross found the defendant helplessly drunk in the Market Place, and unable to get up. He was perfectly civil. Defendant said he had not been used to drinking lately, and having had a little, it overcame him. Superintendent Palmer said defendant was a boatman, and his boat was lying at Braunston. He came into the town, got some beer, and could not carry it away. Ordered to pay costs, 7s.

89 23 July 1881

PETTY SESSIONS, JULY 20

DISOBEYING JUSTICES' ORDER **William Strange alias Stanger**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with disobeying an order of the magistrates to contribute 2s 6d a week towards the support of his father and mother. The order was made on the 11 October 1880. John Birch, the relieving officer, said the defendant paid 10s, and was again summoned in December last, when he absconded and returned only a few days ago, when a warrant against him was executed. At that time, the defendant owed £1 7s 6d. In February the defendant's father died, when the debt had increased to £2 17s 6d. There was nothing asked for the support of the mother. The defendant said he could not pay the £1 7s 6d and costs £1 4s 8d, so he was committed for six weeks.

90 30 July 1881

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Benjamin Johnson**, boatman, was charged with cruelly ill-treating a horse by working it whilst in an unfit state at Hillmorton on the 22nd July, and pleaded guilty. PC Stockford said he was on duty on the canal side at Hillmorton on the day named, when he saw a horse attached to two boats laden with coal coming along the towing path. Noticing that it seemed in poor condition, he stopped it and examined it, when he saw several lumps on its off shoulder, one being nearly the size of a man's fist, and also two raw places, one the size of a two shilling piece. There was also a sore on the near shoulder. He asked defendant his name, which he refused to give, and he also declined to tell him the name of his master. The defendant said the horse had only been in that state about two days ; it was all right when he started on his journey. Mr Wood said he had seen the horse himself, and a grosser case of cruelty he had never known in his life. It was even in a worse state than that described by the policeman, and the sores must have been in existence for a long time. He was sorry to think there could be a man capable of perpetrating such cruelty. If it was not for the police there was no telling to what extent such cruelty would be practised on the canal, for the boatmen seemed to be almost devoid of feeling. Mr Fitzroy said this was the third bad case of the kind that had been before them within the last two or three months. The manner in which boatmen treated their animals was abominable, and they would fine defendant £1 and 10s expenses, or 14 days imprisonment.

91 27 August 1881

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

ILL-TREATING A HORSE **James Chater**, canal boatman, Foleshill, was charged with cruelly ill-

treating a horse by working it whilst in an unfit state, at Hillmorton on the 22nd inst, and pleaded guilty. PC Stockford stated that on the day named he was on duty, in company with PC Limer, on the canal side near Clifton, when he met defendant driving a horse attached to two boats. Noticing that the animal appeared to be in great pain, he examined it, and on the off shoulder he found a large swelling and two raw places, from one of which matter was coming. There were also three raw places on the near shoulder, one the size of half a crown. Witness took possession of the horse, and brought defendant to Rugby and locked him up. Defendant said the horse belonged to him, and he knew there was a sore place on its shoulder, but it had not been there long. He had only bought the animal a fortnight previously. Mr Fitzroy said they had been to inspect the horse, and never saw one in a worse condition. It was totally unfit for work, and the best thing defendant could do would be to shoot it and put it out of its misery. Defendant was fined £1 and £1 4s 6d costs.

92 15 October 1881

COUNTY MAGISTRACY, SATURDAY OCTOBER 8

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **William Griffin**, boatman, Birmingham, was charged with cruelty to a horse by working the same when in an unfit state on the previous day. PC Sorrell proved the charge. Fined with costs 18s.

93 22 October 1881

BARBY

FOUND DROWNED On Saturday, W Terry Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the Arnold Arms, Barby, on the body of a man unknown, discovered in the canal by **Charles Watson**, a boatman, near Wiggin's Bridge. The body appeared to have been in the water for some two or three days. Mr Charles Bennett, surgeon, stated that the deceased had a wooden left leg. There were no external marks of violence sufficient to account for death. PC Sorrell described the deceased as a man 5 ft 11 1/2 in in height, with dark hair, sandy coloured moustache, and the rest of his face clean shaven. He was dressed in an old coat, waistcoat and trousers of dark cloth. On the right foot was an elastic boot. In his pocket were the *Sporting Life* and *Sporting Almanack* for 1881, a small pocket knife and comb, but no money. Witness's wife saw a man answering to that description singing in the street at Braunston last Thursday week. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

On Tuesday last, several people came from Northampton to see if they could recognise the body. They at once identified his clothes, also his wooden leg, and said he had been missing since the 2nd October, and his name was John Goddard. He was a native of Pytchley, and was by trade a rivetter. He had been a total abstainer for some time, and was a married man ; but about ten years ago his wife left him and went away with another man, and it appears that on the 1st of this month he met her, in company with the man with whom she went away. This seemed to upset him very much, and he took to drinking again. He left his lodgings on the 2nd of October, and had not been heard of since.

94 12 November 1881

MAGISTERIAL

SHOCKING CASE OF CRUELTY **Charles Taylor** of Bletchington, boatman, was charged with working a horse while in an unfit state. On the preceding day PC Waite saw the animal dragging a boat along the canal at Newbold, and it could hardly put one leg before the other. On examining it he found both shoulders were covered with horrible running sores, it was very lame, and was generally in a very low weak condition – so much so, that it occupied an hour and a quarter to lead it to the police station at Rugby. Prisoner said in his part they were in the habit of working horses in that state, and nothing was said about it. The magistrates and Superintendent Palmer said that in all their experience they never saw such a cruel case. Prisoner was remanded on substantial bail till Monday next.

95 19 November 1881

PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY

GROSS CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Charles Taylor**, boatman, Bletchington, Oxfordshire, was charged on remand with cruelly working a horse when in an unfit state, at Newbold on the 9th inst. Mr Gledhill appeared for the defendant, and pleaded guilty. PC Wallis stated the case as reported in last week's paper, and said the wounds on the horse's shoulder looked as if blue vitriol had been put on them to dry them up. Mr Gledhill said when the defendant started with the horse from Oxford, it was then all right. It had previously had sore shoulders, and the collar was altered, but unfortunately it had a contrary effect to what was intended and rubbed the sore open again. About half an hour before he met the police-constable, the animal fell lame, and he intended to leave it at Newbold until it was thoroughly well. Being at a distance from home, he of course could not get a horse until he got to Newbold. He handed in a certificate of good character of the defendant as a boatman. Mr Wood said Mr Gledhill had been misinformed as to the state of the animal. He had seen it ; it was a case of chronic lameness, and the animal could hardly put its foot to the ground. The sores on the shoulders had evidently been there for years ; the horse was altogether a most miserable object, and he should like Mr Palmer to bring it into the street, to let people see what shocking cases of cruelty occurred on the canal. Superintendent Palmer said he never saw a more cruel case ; the animal could hardly move, and he might well have been charged with cruelty if he had attempted to bring it to the Court. Mr Palmer gave further evidence as to the condition of the horse, and said defendant said they took no notice of such things in Oxfordshire. Mr Gledhill said he had simply stated as he had been instructed. The Bench considered this a very aggravated case, and that there had been very great cruelty. They had come to the conclusion that they could not diminish the penalty, which was £5, which the defendant must pay, together with the costs 17s 6d. Superintendent Palmer was directed to make inquiries in Oxfordshire as to the truth of the defendant's statement that such things were passed over there.

96 26 November 1881

HILLMORTON

INQUEST On Monday last, an inquest was held at the New Inn, Hillmorton, before Mr W B Sanderson, deputy coroner, to enquire into the circumstances attending to the death of an old man named **Samuel Wolfe**, aged 63 years, a lock-keeper in the employ of the Oxford Canal Company, who was found drowned in the canal on the previous Friday. Mr T Rathbone was foreman of the jury. The body having been viewed by the jury, Emma Taylor, wife of George Taylor, living at the New Inn, was called, who stated that the deceased came into the New Inn on Friday the 18th inst, shortly after three o'clock in the afternoon, and left again about half an hour afterwards, after having had a small quantity of beer. He appeared to be in his usual health and spirits, and was quite sober. She had known deceased for many years. In consequence of something she heard, she went to the locks, which were about a hundred yards from the New Inn, and on arriving there saw deceased lying on the side of the canal with his legs hanging over the water. He appeared to be quite dead. A boatman who was present stated that deceased had fallen off the lock gates into the canal, and that he had just got him out. A man named John Perkins shortly afterwards came up, and the deceased was taken to the lock-keeper's hut close by. A small quantity of brandy was given to him, and it being found that life was not extinct, he was conveyed to his home. In reply to Mr Beale (a juror), witness said the boatman stated that he heard deceased fall into the water, but he was unable to get off his boat to render any assistance until he got to the canal bridge near to the New Inn. The boatman went away soon after the occurrence. In reply to the Coroner, PC Stockford said he had been unable to secure the attendance of the boatman as a witness. John Perkins, carpenter in the employ of the Oxford Canal Company said, on the day named, soon after he arrived home from work, Mrs Barratt came to his house and told him what had occurred, and asked if he had got any brandy. Witness at once proceeded to the spot, and found the last witness and a boatman there. The deceased was then lying close to the edge of the canal. With the assistance of the boatman, they carried the deceased into his hut. The boatman soon afterwards left the place with his boat. He

made no statement to witness, except that he had taken deceased out of the canal, and that he found him in the water head downwards. Witness picked deceased's hat out of the water. He administered a small quantity of brandy to deceased, which seemed to revive him, and he afterwards helped to carry him home. The deceased appearing to gradually improve, witness left and went to have his tea. He went to see him again about six o'clock, and he had then recovered consciousness, and spoke to witness and his (deceased's) wife. When witness left the house he appeared to be much better, and likely soon to be all right again. Deceased died about three hours after the accident. He was a short stout man, and witness believed he was very steady in his habits. In reply to a jurymen, witness said he enquired of deceased how he came to fall into the canal, but he was unable to inform him. It was about five o'clock when he first saw deceased at the locks, and it was just getting dark. No lamps were lit at the time. **Mr John Whittingham**, superintendent of the Oxford Canal Company, stated that deceased was in the service of the company as day lock-keeper, and his hours of duty were from 6 am to 6 pm. The lamps were not lit at the time of the accident, as it was not then dark. Deceased was always very careful when crossing the locks. By a juror : Drags and other appliances for saving life were always kept in a shed close to the place where the accident occurred. The witness Perkins stated that deceased was troubled with rheumatism in his legs, which sometimes gave way and caused him to fall down. The Coroner stated that this case showed how desirable it was that all the servants in the employ of the company should be instructed as to the best means to restore animation under such circumstances, and referred to the good work carried on by the Ambulance Society and other societies, both by the aid of their books of instruction and their lectures, which thoroughly explained how a person should be treated in a case of drowning. He also stated that the Humane Society published a book of rules which would fully instruct them how to act in cases like this. Mr Whittingham said he would procure some for the use of the men in the employ of the Canal Company. The Coroner said it would have been more satisfactory if the boatman had been present to give evidence ; it was pretty clear, however, from the evidence, that the deceased was accidentally drowned, and the jury being unanimously of the same opinion, a verdict to that effect was returned.

97 10 December 1881

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, DECEMBER 7

CARRYING A GUN WITHOUT A LICENCE **William Boyes**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with carrying a gun without having a licence. PC Sorrill said he met the defendant on the 3rd of November on the road leading to the wharf. Witness asked him if he had a licence. He replied he had not ; the gun belonged to his son. Witness afterwards saw the son, who said he had not a licence, but he intended to get one. The defendant said his son bought the gun, and he was merely carrying it home. His son bought it from a man who took it to the boat side. He had not had it more than two or three days. Fined 10s and costs 8s. Mr Andrews said he had been instructed to ask for penalty and costs sufficient to cover the licence, which had not been taken out since.

98 15 July 1882

BRAUNSTON

ALLEGED WILFUL DAMAGE BY A BOATMAN At Northampton on Saturday, **William alias Topper Boyes**, boatman, Braunston, was summoned for wilfully and negligently suffering his boat to injure lock-gates on the Grand Junction Canal at Hardingstone on the 16th June. Mr C B Roche, Daventry, prosecuted, and Mr A Andrew defended. Mr Andrew asked for an adjournment, as the defendant was unable to have his witness present that day, and the case was adjourned for a fortnight.

99 15 July 1882

POLICE INTELLIGENCE, THURSDAY JULY 13

Joseph Jephcott, boatman, Nuneaton, was charged with allowing two donkeys to stray on the highway at Tuttle Hill on the 30th ult. PC Holtom proved the case. Defendant was ordered to pay

costs, amounting to 7s.

100 29 July 1882

BRAUNSTON

CHARGE OF WILFUL DAMAGE AGAINST A BOATMAN At Northampton Division Sessions on Saturday, **William alias Topper Boyes**, boatman, appeared in answer to an adjourned summons charging him with wilfully and negligently suffering his boat to strike and injure the lock gates at No 15 lock on the Grand Junction Canal, in the parish of Hardingstone, on the 16th June. Mr C B Roche, Daventry, prosecuted, and Mr A Andrew appeared for the defendant. From the opening statement of Mr Roche, it appeared that the defendant, who was in charge of a boat, passed along the canal about four o'clock on the morning of the day named, and it was alleged that he wilfully and negligently ran against the gates of the lock, which he had not sent word to be opened. Mr Roche called Abraham Minards, platelayer on the London and North Western Railway, who lives near the lock in question, and also John Jackson, labourer, also living by the side of the lock, but their evidence did not substantiate the charge of wilfulness, and the Bench asked Mr Roche if he would go on with the case, as they did not think there was a shadow of a case. Mr Roche desired to call the Engineer to the Company, but the Chairman intimated that if he did so the Bench would not convict. Mr Mercer, the engineer, however, was called, and proved that some damage had been done to the gates by a blow from a boat on the day named. The Chairman said there was no doubt the gates were damaged, but there was no proof of neglect. In reply to Mr Andrew, the Engineer said he had never to caution the defendant for negligence, but Mr Roche called **Samuel Carter**, lock-keeper, to prove that he had cautioned the defendant about two months since. That was in reference to another lock, No 17. Mr Andrew said the defendant had been a boatman on the canal for 25 years, and had been for several years in the employ of Mr Westley, who was present to give him a good character. The Bench dismissed the case.

101 19 August 1882

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 16

DRUNKENNESS **John Higgins**, boatman, Braunston, was fined 5s and 9s 6d costs for being drunk and disorderly on the 8th August.

102 26 August 1882

MAGISTERIAL, MONDAY

ALLEGED CRUELTY TO HORSES **Robert Chamberlain** of Marshfield, boat owner, was brought up in custody charged with causing a horse to be worked while in an unfit state, and **John Furley**, a young man in his employ, was charged with working the same. PC Limer stated that about six o'clock that morning, he noticed the horse, which was drawing two boats on the canal in the parish of Clifton, swerving about, and thinking something was wrong, stopped it. On making an examination, he found a raw place as large as the palm of his hand on the near shoulder, and on the other side a wound about six inches long. On calling Chamberlain's attention to it, he said the animal had not been in that condition many days, and he was going to turn it out when he got home again. Remanded till Tuesday on bail.

Edward King, boatman of no fixed abode, was similarly charged. PC Stockford met the horse on the canal near Upper Hillmorton Wharf and, it appearing to be in great pain, he stopped it. At the bottom of the off shoulder he found a wound the size of a florin, and from that place to the top of the shoulder there had evidently been a number of sores. There were also two wounds on the near side. When he stopped the horse, the defendant declared that there was nothing the matter with it. Remanded till Tuesday.

103 2 September 1882

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

CRUELTY TO HORSES **Edward King**, boatman, was charged on remand with cruelly ill-treating

a horse by working the same on the canal while in an unfit state. Defendant pleaded guilty, but said that when he bought the horse it had not been in the habit of having very much corn and very little work ; and when he got the animal he gave it plenty of corn which made it rather “humoury”, but he kept three collars to suit the state of the horse's shoulders. PC Stockford repeated the evidence reported in last week's *Advertiser*. The magistrates, after looking at the horse, said the animal was in a very disgraceful state, and the collar produced was quite unsuitable, and they fined defendant £2 and 13s costs.

Robert Chamberlain of Marsworth, Bucks, boatman, was charged with causing a horse to be worked while in an unfit state, and **John Finney** of Tring, his servant, was charged with working the same, and pleaded guilty. PC Limer repeated the particulars that have already appeared. Defendant Chamberlain said the horse was sound when he bought it from a farmer in Buckinghamshire six weeks ago, and the change to different work “galled” its shoulders a little, otherwise the horse was in good condition. The Bench took into consideration the fact that the horse was in better condition than boat horses generally are, and let Chamberlain off lighter than they otherwise would have done, viz, with a fine of £2 and 13s 6d costs. Finney was fined 10s and 19s 6d costs.

[Note : name shown as Furley in the previous article]

104 21 October 1882

GRENDON

MYSTERIOUS DEATH BY DROWNING An inquest was held at the King's Head Inn, Grendon, on Tuesday, before the Coroner, Dr Iliffe, touching the death of Thomas Knight, whose body was found in the canal at Grendon. From the evidence it appeared the deceased lived in Birmingham, and on Saturday night was on his way to join his wife, who was paying a visit to his sister at Grendon. While waiting at Nuneaton station for the Atherstone train, he said he had been ill used at Coventry by five men, and appeared either to be under the influence of drink or ill. On Sunday morning, a boatman named **Randall** observed the body floating in the canal, and with assistance it was got out. Dr Hales, who had examined the body, described the wounds and scars found upon the face ; they could not be caused by falling into the water. Death had been caused by suffocation, consequent upon drowning. After a short consultation, the jury returned a verdict of “Death from drowning”. In their opinion, the deceased fell into the canal owing to the darkness of the night and while under the influence of drink.

105 25 November 1882

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 23

John Hemsley, boatman, charged with being drunk at Polesworth on the 13th inst, was fined 6s and costs 12s 6d.

106 6 January 1883

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JANUARY 14

Joseph Starkey, a lad, was remanded on a charge of stealing four brasses from the harness of a horse, the property of **Joseph Hanson**, boatman of Warwick.

107 6 January 1883

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY JANUARY 2

OBTAINING MONEY BY FALSE PRETENCES **Emma Millard**, boatwoman, was charged with having, by false pretences, obtained a sovereign from Samuel Mason at Braunston on the 6th October last. Henry Mason said he lived with his father at the Nelson Inn, Braunston Locks. In the early part of October last, the defendant went into his father's house with a letter (produced) which, under the signature of James Ewers, asked his father to advance to her or her husband the sum of £1 on behalf of the writer. He handed her a sovereign, relying on the letter as being correct. He asked her no questions. Henry Elliott, toll clerk at Braunston Canal Office, said the defendant asked him

to write a letter for her, which he did, signing it as she directed. He signed the name she told him, and did not know that he was doing wrong. The letter produced was the one he wrote. **James Ewers**, boatman and boat owner, said he lived on his boat. He knew the defendant very well. She had never worked for him, nor he for her. He had had no business transactions with her. He did not owe her any money. He had never authorised her to receive any money for him. He had seen the defendant twice since the 6th October, but she had never told him that she had drawn the money. He first heard of it from Mr Mason about three weeks ago. Committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.

108 20 January 1883

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY JANUARY 18

Geo Starkey, a lad, was charged with stealing brasses belonging to the harness of some horses owned by a boatman named **Anson**. The lad admitted the theft, and the charge not being pressed, a fine of 10s was inflicted.

[Note : name is Hanson in a previous article]

109 31 March 1883

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, MARCH 28

NEGLECTING TO SUPPORT A PARENT **James Sanders**, boatman, was charged with neglecting to contribute towards the maintenance of his parents, **William and Sarah Sanders**, at Braunston. The defendant for some time paid 1s 6d a week, and two brothers contributed – one 1s 6d and the other 1s a week. The other brothers kept on, but the defendant had lately neglected to pay. Ordered to pay 1s 6d a week and 18s 6d costs. Defendant paid 4s on account.

110 26 May 1883

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

WORKING A HORSE IN AN UNFIT STATE **Thomas Jeffery**, boatman, Budbrooke, was charged with working a horse in an unfit state at Clifton on May 13th, and pleaded not guilty. PC Stockford proved seeing the animal drawing a load of coal along the canal on the day named, and he examined it. It had the hair off on the near side, and some wounds with matter issuing from them on the off side. Defendant said the horse was not bad at all when he put the collar on in the morning. He was sure there was no matter coming from the wounds when the policeman saw it. Let off on paying costs 14s.

111 9 June 1883

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY

GROSS CRUELTY TO A DONKEY **Frederick Booth**, boatman, pleaded guilty to a charge of cruelly working a donkey while in an unfit state at Fenny Compton Wharf. PC Randall deposed that on Sunday the 20th of May, he saw the defendant driving two donkeys, which were drawing three boats along the canal laden with about thirty one tons of granite each. Defendant struck them several times, and having his suspicions that something was wrong with one of the animals, he examined it, and found a bad sore on each shoulder, and from one of them matter was running. He asked defendant how he accounted for it, when he replied, "Oh, it's been worse than that ; I didn't know it was so bad now". The Bench said it was cruelty to make two donkeys draw three loaded boats, but defendant said it was not his fault, as they had two horses, but the line broke, and it was impossible to stop. Mr Jones, Inspector of the Royal Society, said a great deal of cruelty occurred to these donkeys drawing stone boats, and they were most brutally treated. The Leamington Magistrates did not consider a donkey sufficient to draw a boat. Defendant's master said defendant had only one boat for his donkey to draw, and if he had got two other boats on, it was by some arrangement between the boatmen. He did not know that it was done till this occurred. Mr Darlington informed the master that if the owner of a boat knowingly permitted this sort of thing, he could be sent to prison, and he must be careful. Fined 1s and expenses 15s.

112 16 June 1883

NUNEATON

POLICE INTELLIGENCE, THURSDAY JUNE 14 Charles Smith and Frederick W Eales, youths, were charged with breaking into a boat belonging to **Richard Taylor**, a boatman living at Longford, and stealing clothing to the value of 5s. The prosecutor stated that on the 10th his boat was at Nuneaton. He left it safely locked up on the Saturday night, the 9th inst. Charles Mayer, Tuttle Hill, manager of Mr Judkin's stone quarry, said he had occasion to go to his office on the day in question, and saw the prisoners go to the boat. Smith tried twice to open the cabin with some keys, but could not, and Eales then forced the lock with a piece of iron. They went inside, and after they had been there a few minutes, witness closed the door, shutting them in, and sent for a constable. Before he closed the door, he saw them on their knees in the cabin, getting at a cupboard. PC Venables deposed to finding Mr Mayer at the door of the cabin of the boat. He entered and saw the clothing produced on the floor, and the prisoners in the place. The prisoners, who had nothing to say, were committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.

113 23 June 1883

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

WORKING A DONKEY IN AN UNFIT STATE **Thomas Lapworth**, boatman, Tusses Bridge near Coventry, was charged with working a donkey in an unfit state on June 8th at Brownsover. Defendant did not appear. PC Limer said that on June 8th he saw two donkeys on the canal bank at Brownsover, drawing a load of coal. He examined them, and found one of the donkeys had bad wounds on its shoulders. Witness ordered it to be taken out. Fined £1 and costs 14s 6d.

114 30 June 1883

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JUNE 27

ASSAULT **John Millard**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with assaulting John Hanson on the 18th June. Complainant said he lived at Emscote, but was at Braunston on Tuesday the 15th, when he saw the defendant at the top locks. He was on the tow path, and the defendant was on the boat of which he is captain. Another person invited the defendant to go ashore, and then asked him if he had said that the complainant had brought some poison from Warwick, and that Julia Edwards had poisoned his (defendant's) ducks with it. Defendant denied that he had said so, and upon complainant contradicting him, he struck complainant and knocked him down, and struck him while down. Mary and Julia Edwards, mother and daughter, corroborated the complainant. The defendant admitted he struck the complainant, who was his nephew, not because he contradicted him, but because he set it about that the defendant owed him £2. The Bench said it was a serious assault, but as the defendant had a good character, he was fined only 10s and costs 15s 6d.

115 14 July 1883

MAGISTERIAL, WEDNESDAY

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Richard Shackleton** of Stoke on Trent, boatman, was charged with working a horse while in an unfit state. About five o'clock that morning, PC Limer was on duty on the canal at Hillmorton, and seeing a horse attached to the boat staggering along as if in pain, stopped it and examined it. He found on the off shoulder a very bad wound as large as the palm of one's hand, signs of an old sore on the near shoulder, and an abrasion on the near side. The defendant, being in charge of the boat, was taken into custody. Remanded on bail until Tuesday next.

116 21 July 1883

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Richard Shakelston** (*sic*), Stoke upon Trent, boatman, answered to his bail on the charge of cruelty to a horse at Hillmorton on July 10th. He pleaded guilty. PC Limer proved seeing the horse drawing a loaded boat on the canal, and on examining it he found on the off

shoulder an old sore as large as the hand, discharging blood and matter. Defendant said it was not his own horse – it belonged to his father-in-law – and being so far from home he could not get his own. He wanted to get a little nearer home, so that he could tie it up while he fetched his own. The magistrates said that was no excuse whatever, and fined defendant £2 including expenses.

117 11 August 1883

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 8

FALSE PRETENCES **William Gould**, boatman, Stoke-on-Trent, was charged with obtaining 6s by false pretences from William Nurser, Braunston, on the 26th July. Prosecutor said the prisoner went to him on Thursday the 26th July, and said he had received a letter, when passing Buckby Wharf, from Mr Williams, directing him to ask prosecutor to help him to Etruria Station, as prisoner's wife was dead. Prisoner was in the employ of Mr Williams, whom prosecutor knew. He asked the prisoner to show him the letter. Prisoner said he would fetch the letter from the boat. In about a quarter of an hour, he returned with the letter produced. Prosecutor said, "This is not all the letter ; I think you have torn some of it off". Prisoner said it was as it came to him. Prosecutor, believing the statement, lent the prisoner 6s. **Lewis Guildford**, boatlad, Weedlock (*Wheelock?*), Cheshire, said he was at Braunston in the prisoner's boat. Between eleven and twelve, the prisoner, who had been away, came on the boat and told him he must write him a paper. He said his wife was dead, and he told witness what to write. Witness wrote the letter produced. Prisoner then told witness not to say anything about it. He then left the boat, taking the letter with him. **Edward Williams**, canal carrier, Etruria, near Stoke-on-Trent, said he had known the prisoner for some years, and had employed him about fifteen months. He knew Mr Nurser, and on one occasion requested him to advance £2 to the prisoner. He then wrote to Mr Nurser by post. It was early in July last. He had not since authorised him to make any advance. He did not send the prisoner word that his wife was dead. She was alive, and witness saw her two days ago. Witness gave the prisoner into custody. PC Sorrell produced a note that was handed to him by Mr Nurser on the 27th. The prisoner, who had nothing to say, was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.

118 18 August 1883

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 15

SCHOOL CASE **Matthew Evitts**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with neglecting the education of his son John. Mr Birch said the boy was ten, and had not passed any standard. He had attended seven times out of 70 during the last seven weeks. The defendant had been warned several times. Fined 5s including costs.

119 1 September 1883

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 27 Edward Wright, aged 16, was charged with stealing a watch, the property of **J Powell**. Complainant said : I live at Braunston and am a boatman. On the 10th August last, I was with my boat at Greaves' and Co's Lime Works at Stockton. At about 7 o'clock in the evening I left the boat, and did not return until about ten the same night. I left my watch in the table cupboard. The watch produced I believe to be the same. The chain and keys I am positive about as being my property. Upon my return I missed the watch. My son had charge of my boat in my absence. The watch really belongs to him. Some time after, I went to Boshers', the pawnbroker, in the Harrow Road, London, where the watch was produced, and I identified the same as by son's property. **Thomas Powell** said : I am the son of the last witness, and am a boatman, and work for **Mr Smith** of Braunston. I identify the watch produced as my property. I had left it in my father's boat. I value the same at £1. Frank Page, manager for Mr Boshers, pawnbroker of 30 Frankford Terrace, Harrow Road, London, said : I identify the watch produced as the one pawned by the defendant on the 17th August last. I also recognise the defendant as the party who pawned the same. I advanced ten shillings upon it. PC Gartenfeldt, stationed at Long Itchington, said : On the 22nd August, I apprehended the defendant at Stockton on the charge of stealing the watch, and brought him to Southam. In answer to the charge, he said he never had it.

From information received, I went to Boshers in the Harrow Road, London, and recovered the watch produced in the presence of John Powell, which he identified as his property. Complainant said he had known the defendant all his life, and his parents ; they were very respectable people. He asked the Bench to be as lenient as possible. He had no wish to press the charge. Defendant elected to be dealt with summarily. Mr Tolly of the Doles Wharf and Mr Wall of Stockton gave the defendant an excellent character ; they had known him from a child. Fined 1s and costs £3 12s.

120 6 October 1883

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3

INDECENCY **John Swales alias James Smith**, boatman, Burslem, was charged with indecently exposing his person in view of a highway with intent to insult Sarah Ann Loomes, a girl aged 11 years, at Kilsby. The complainant said she was on the road between Watford and Kilsby on the morning of the 29th September, picking blackberries, when the prisoner came up and, speaking of blackberries, looked over a gate and said there were plenty inside. Witness got over the gate and got some, and prisoner also went in and got some. He then caught hold of her and committed the offence with which he was now charged, throwing her down. She cried "Murder" and the prisoner then walked away very fast to Kilsby. Alice Prestlidge, Sarah Loomes and Thomas Sharp gave evidence connecting the prisoner with the offence, and Superintendent Barwell, who took him into custody, stated that he was a returned convict on ticket of leave, liberated from Pentonville on the 22nd of September, six days before the commission of the present offence. The prisoner denied that he had committed the offence with which he was charged. The Bench sentenced him to three months imprisonment with hard labour. The prisoner was also charged with a breach of his licence by failing to report himself to the police, and neglecting to produce his licence when called upon to do so, and the Bench ordered a certificate of his conviction on the former charge to be forwarded to the Home Office, upon which his licence might be withdrawn, and he himself recommitted to prison to complete his term of imprisonment, which had not fully expired on his release.

121 27 October 1883

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, OCTOBER 24

ASSAULT **Thomas Webb**, boatman of no fixed residence, was charged with having assaulted **George Henry Tilley** at Whilton Locks. The complainant is lock-keeper, and has orders to detain single boats for two hours, for a second to go through the locks at the same time and thus save the waste of water. The defendant, with a single boat, refused to wait and attempted to open the gates, and when resisted by the complainant, threatened him and threw him down. William Pleater said he saw the defendant throw the complainant down. The defendant, who appeared to be not sober, said the complainant took the law into his own hands. Fined 2s 6d and costs 15s, or 14 days.

122 17 November 1883

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

IMPUDENT THEFT OF A HORSE **David Allen** of Tamworth, boatman, and **William Dipper**, alias **Draper**, labourer, Birmingham, were brought up on remand charged with stealing a horse, value £28, the property of George Taylor of Hillmorton, on Thursday night last week. George Taylor, landlord of the New Inn, Hillmorton, deposed that he missed a horse belonging to him from a field by the canal side at Hillmorton on Friday the 9th of November, and thereupon communicated with the police. He saw the horse again on Monday in a stable at the Sportsman Inn, Aston Road, Birmingham, to which he was conducted by Superintendent Palmer. Edward James Barrett, brother-in-law to the last witness, stated that the two prisoners called at the New Inn and had some refreshments on Thursday afternoon. **William Chamberlain**, lock-keeper at the Hillmorton locks, deposed that he was on duty between seven and eight on the evening of the previous Thursday, and he saw two men come by with Mr Taylor's horse. He said, "Are you going to take the old horse away?" They answered, "Yes", and continued on their way. By Dipper : I cannot swear to the prisoners being the men I saw, for it was dark. By the Bench : I recognised the horse directly, as I

have been in the habit of seeing it several times daily. On the application of Superintendent Palmer, at this stage, the case was remanded for a week.

123 8 December 1883

THE RECENT HORSE ROBBERIES

IMPORTANT ARREST For some little time past, the police authorities of Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Birmingham have been much perplexed by a series of robberies of horses, which have been carried out so cleverly as to defy the most strenuous efforts of the police, who were unable to obtain the slightest clue as to where the animals had gone to, or who were the thieves. It is due, however, to the tact and well directed energy of Superintendent Palmer during the last few weeks that the mystery has been elucidated, and the parties, who have apparently been engaged in a wholesale system of robbery, brought to justice. On the 9th of November, it will be remembered, a black cob belonging to Mr Taylor of Hillmorton was stolen from a field by the side of the canal, but by the instrumentality of Superintendent Palmer, Sergeant Webb and PC Stockford, it was recovered, and the thieves were arrested within two or three days of the theft. They were traced to Tamworth, where **David Allen**, a boatman, was captured, and the other man, named **William Draper**, a convicted cattle lifter, was afterwards arrested at Birmingham, where the horse was also found. These two men have been committed for trial. While Mr Palmer was investigating this case, information came into his hands which led him to look up an old warrant, still in force, for the apprehension of a man named "Jack Lindon" for stealing a horse from Nuneaton in 1873. This man, it appears, had a stable at Handsworth in 1873, wherein three stolen horses, worth £60 each, were found. He made his escape at the time and, it was believed, left the country. Draper, who was found in charge of the stables, was apprehended, but as he said he was only acting as Lindon's servant, and there being no evidence to the contrary, he was discharged. Calling to mind the circumstance, it now occurred to the police that Draper had recently been in communication with a mysterious individual at Manchester, who was stated to be the cleverest horse stealer in the world. Acting under the directions of the Chief Constable, Superintendent Palmer and Detective-Sergeant Winkless of Aston, armed with the warrant, proceeded to Manchester about the 14th November to arrest this man, whom they shrewdly suspected to be Lindon himself. They commenced operations at Gorton, near Bellevue prison, and after two days' enquiry, by a ruse, found Lindon's stables. Lindon was known only by the name of "Mr Jones", from Wales, and had taken the stables on a yearly tenancy, paying the rent whether they were used or not. Some six horses – all supposed to have been stolen – had been in the place within the last six months, but it was now empty. After searching till eleven o'clock at night, Lindon's house at Longsight, Manchester, was found ; but the bird had flown at 5 am on the previous Thursday morning, taking with him his furniture. Sergeant Winkless on Sunday (18th November) was sent back to Aston to enquire after some horses stolen from Lancashire and Cheshire, believed to have been sold there. Meanwhile Superintendent Palmer continued to enquire after two horses missing from Warwickshire. In the stables of Mr Acton, cab proprietor, Longsight, he found the horse stolen from Mr Whitehead of Southam in September last, and heard of another stolen from a Stechford milkman. Both the owners were telegraphed for, and identifying the horses, they returned home with them. With the able assistance of Mr Acton, Superintendent Palmer again took up the hunt after Lindon, and after much enquiry and a liberal and judicious application of money, Jack's present residence was traced. Careful watch was kept, and at length he was met with and properly secured, brought to Rugby, and remanded on Tuesday the 20th ult for a week. Returning again to Manchester on Wednesday, search was made for a cob mare belonging to Westley Richards and Co, Birmingham, stolen in May last ; and after three days' enquiry in Liverpool, Bootle and Stockport, and elsewhere, it was found in a gentleman's brougham at Ormskirk railway station, identified, and arrangements made for its return to the owners. Getting back to Manchester the same (Friday) night, Superintendent Palmer worked all next day after a horse stolen from Tamworth in November 1882, and at ten o'clock, having traced it through three person's hands, found the last owner, who proved satisfactorily that it was dead. It was now Saturday night, and Superintendent Palmer returned home until Monday. After an interview with

the Chief Constable, he went off again on that day, this time to Ashton-under-Lyne, where he obtained valuable information about a "horsey" individual in that town. He first traced a black cob stolen from Harborne in August last. It had passed through two hands, and was now owned by a grocer at Hyde, Cheshire. It had been sold at first for £22, then £34, and was now considered worth fifty guineas. The same day, a horse stolen from Mrs Cattle of Alum Rock, Birmingham, was discovered in the hands of a cab proprietor at Ashton. A pony stolen from a butcher named Saunders at Handsworth in July last was next traced into the hands of a magistrate, who purchased it directly from London. He was at the time at his shooting box on the Yorkshire Moors, and going there, Superintendent Palmer found the animal. Confining his attention next to a horse stolen from Harborne in 1882, Superintendent Palmer, after two days' laborious work, traced it through four hands and there left it, it being Saturday night (1st December), having no doubt as to its recovery. Since coming home, Mr Palmer has sent information to a man at West Bromwich as to the whereabouts of a valuable horse he lost in September 1882 ; and a pony stolen from a Birmingham butcher in 1881 is in a fair way of being recovered.

It seems that Lindon, otherwise Jones, was well known under the latter cognomen in the neighbourhood of Manchester to a number of people whom he supplied with horses. They all say he was never known to have a bad one, and could always sell them cheaper than anyone else, giving out as a reason that he was supplied by his brother, an auctioneer in Wales. One place to which Mr Palmer traced four horses was an enclosed running ground at Ormskirk, some twelve acres in extent, and fenced all round with boards to a height of 16 feet. In this admirable place of concealment, stolen horses were turned out to grass for two or three weeks directly they were received. The owner was quite innocent of the use to which his kraal was being put, and he, to his sorrow, bought a horse from Lindon, who, knowing that his friend might suffer loss if it was discovered, very considerably advised him not to do so, although of course not venturing to give an explanation. Mr Palmer also found eight dwelling houses which Lindon had occupied, but none of them longer than two months, and he was very careful not to let his customers know where he lived. It was also ascertained that he rented five different stables in Longsight, Gorton and Gorton Brook, and at one stable adjoining Longsight station, he was in the habit of riding horses daily. He never showed his horses at the stable, but always took them to the residences of people who he happened to know wanted them. He is supposed to be acting in conjunction with Draper, who managed his horses for him after he had finished his term of seven years for cattle stealing. Lindon, who had lived for seven years in Liverpool, seems to have traded almost entirely in stolen horses, most of which came from the Midlands, and it is believed that at least 50 animals have passed through his hands ; and all those horses recovered by Superintendent Palmer had been sold by Lindon himself. He dealt chiefly in useful cobs, such as are in demand at Manchester, and the one stolen from Hillmorton was destined to go into his hands upon the very day it was fortunately recovered. Superintendent Palmer has thus, after three weeks of thoroughly hard work, succeeded in recovering all the horses stolen from the immediate neighbourhood except a cart horse which, of course, was not in "Jack's" line ; and he has no doubt broken up a gang of the most daring horse stealers in the country.

The prisoner was brought before R H Wood and R H Shuckborough Esqs on Thursday, when three cases were gone into against him, viz, stealing a horse, the property of James Cotterell, dairyman, Stechford, on October 30th ; a bay cob, the property of Mr Whitehead, Southam, on September 4th ; and a bay mare, the property of Westley Richards and Co, Saltley, on May 27th. All the animals were stolen during the night, and numerous witnesses were called to trace them into the hands in which they were finally found by Superintendent Palmer, as mentioned in the foregoing particulars. Superintendent Palmer deposed as to the arrest of the prisoner, who since he had been in custody had said to him, "You have got me very tight. I shall plead guilty". After a hearing lasting three hours, the prisoner was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions on all the charges.

124 5 January 1884

WARWICKSHIRE EPIPHANY QUARTER SESSIONS

HORSE STEALING John Lindon (60), horse dealer, pleaded guilty to having stolen a bay mare at Saltley, the property of Westley Richards and Co. There were two other charges of horse stealing against him, one at Southam and the other at Yardley. He was put back while another case was tried, in which **William Dipper** (62), boatman and **David Allen** (38), labourer, were tried on a charge of having stolen a horse at Hillmorton on the 8th of November last, the property of George Taylor. Mr Fitzgerald prosecuted and Mr Pye defended Allen. The two prisoners were seen near the place where the horse was shortly before it was missing, and they then had a bridle with them. Afterwards they were found dealing with the stolen animal. Mr Pye appealed very strongly in favour of an acquittal for Allen, on the grounds that he was an honest man, who had been drawn in to assist Dipper, not knowing he was engaged in a dishonest transaction. The jury found both guilty; and it was afterwards stated by the police that Dipper's was a very suspicious case, inasmuch as he had been acting as "groom" for Lindon, who had already pleaded guilty to horse stealing, and was awaiting sentence. The Chairman said the Court were of opinion that Allen had been entrapped into this affair by Dipper ; and taking into consideration the previous good character he had borne, the sentence in his case would be six months with hard labour. But for the good character he had up to this transaction, the sentence would have been much more severe. Dipper's was a very different case. It was quite clear he had been engaged with Lindon in a conspiracy for stealing horses in different parts of the country, and he would be sentenced to penal servitude for seven years, with three years' police supervision. John Lindon was then brought to the bar, and was also sentenced to seven years' penal servitude and three years' police supervision. The Court highly commended PC Whitlock and Superintendent Palmer for the activity displayed by the former in connection with the horse stolen at Hillmorton, and for the general intelligence and acuteness which the latter had shown in the three charges against Lindon.

125 2 February 1884

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JANUARY 30

NON PAYMENT OF ORDER **James Sanders**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with disobeying a Justices order, made 12th April 1883, to pay 1s 6d a week towards the support of his mother. Defendant did not appear. John Birch, relieving officer, said he had received a letter from him saying he did not intend to appear, as he was going with his boat to West Bromwich. On the 28th of March 1883, witness obtained an order against him for 1s 6d a week towards the support of his mother, For some months, defendant complied with the order. On the 31st December there was £1 13s owing. Witness had sent letters to him, and they were returned as "no address". Defendant was captain of a canal boat, and in constant work. Yesterday morning he had a letter from him stating that his employers would pay. Defendant had done the same before, and then left his place. Ordered to pay £1 13s and costs 9s 6d. A warrant for his apprehension to issue ; to be stayed if the money is paid.

126 8 March 1884

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

AFFILIATION **John Simpson**, boatman, Coventry, was summoned by Annie Louisa Colledge, Long Lawford, to show cause why he should not contribute to the support of her illegitimate child. Mr Masser of Coventry appeared for the defendant, and Mr Gledhill for the complainant. Defendant denied the paternity of the child. After a hearing occupying some time, the Bench ordered defendant to pay 2s a week towards the support of the child, and the usual costs.

127 28 June 1884

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JUNE 25

ASSAULT **William Busby**, boatman, Long Buckby, was charged with assaulting George Henry Tilley at Whilton on the 30th of May. The complainant asked the Bench to allow him to withdraw

the charge. Request granted on payment of costs, 5s.

128 28 June 1884

HILLMORTON

DEATH BY DROWNING An inquest was held on Saturday last at the New Inn, Hillmorton, before W S Poole Esq, coroner, upon the body of Ann Haynes, widow, Hillmorton, aged 73 years, who was found drowned in the canal at the mouth of the boathouse, Hillmorton Locks, on the previous Thursday evening. Mr John Whittingham was elected foreman of the jury. Elizabeth Stewart, wife of Andrew Stewart, smith, in the employ of the Oxford Canal Company, identified the deceased as her sister ; and said she had been living with witness at Hillmorton during the last six years. Witness last saw deceased in the house about half past eleven on the Thursday, when deceased put on her bonnet and went out for a walk, as was her usual custom after lunch in a morning. Deceased then seemed to be in her usual health, although sometimes lately she had complained of pains in the head and of giddiness. Neither witness nor her husband had ever quarrelled with deceased ; on the contrary, she had always been treated kindly by them. They had kept her since the death of her last husband, and had given her all she wanted. When the deceased did not return at her usual time, witness concluded that she had called in at some house. Witness did not see her again alive ; her body was brought home about 7 pm. There was nothing unusual in deceased being by the canal side, as she used to walk about a good deal. Witness had wanted a brick for use in the house, and having mentioned it to deceased, she thought perhaps she was bringing her the one found in her apron, which would just about have done for what she wanted. **William Walton**, a boatman to the Oxford Canal Company and living at Hillmorton Locks, deposed to seeing deceased when he was bringing his boat into the boathouse about 6.30 on Thursday evening, floating in the water face downwards. She looked as though her clothes kept her up. The water was between two and three feet deep at that place. He did not touch her, but told someone, and then went to the constable's house to inform him. By a Juror : The place where he found the deceased was an arm of the canal, and could not be seen from the main canal. PC Stockford next gave evidence. When he got to the canal, deceased had been placed on the bank. She was afterwards removed home. Upon witness searching her, he found part of a brick (produced) tied in her apron. In answer to the Coroner, witness said he had heard of no one that had seen deceased between when she left home and when she was found in the canal by Walton. Andrew Stewart, husband of the first witness, was also called, but was unable to throw more light on the matter. He thought, with his wife, that deceased was probably bringing the brick home, as she knew they wanted one ; more especially as it was not full sized, being only 1 1/2 inches in thickness, which was just about what they wanted. Mrs Stewart was recalled, and in answer to enquiries, said she had begun to get uneasy at deceased's long absence, and was just starting to look for her at the time the body was found in the canal. The Coroner, in commenting upon the evidence, said that the supposition that deceased was bringing the brick home, and had tied it in her apron to leave her hands free, might be correct ; and perhaps she had a fit and fell into the water. It was clear she could have easily got out, if she had been conscious and had tried to. The brick (which weighed only three or four lbs) scarcely looked like one deceased would choose to sink herself with. However nothing could be taken for granted ; and he advised the jury to return an open verdict, as there was no evidence how deceased came to be in the water. The jury accordingly returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

129 26 July 1884

NUNEATON

A CHILD DROWNED IN THE COVENTRY CANAL Dr Iliffe, Coroner, held an inquest at the Punch Bowl Inn on Monday last, touching the death of **Fanny Elizabeth Humphries**, who was drowned in the Coventry Canal near the Punch Bowl Bridge, Nuneaton. **Ellen Humphries**, wife of **Samuel Humphries**, boatman of Eynsham near Oxford, identified the body of the deceased as that of her daughter. She was nine years old. On Friday night last week, she and her husband were with

two empty boats at Nuneaton. The deceased was playing with a kitten, and asked her mother if she could put the kitten into the other boat. Witness told her she might, whereupon deceased walked in the direction of the second boat. She did not see her again alive. In about a quarter of an hour later, witness missed the child, and a search was at once made for her. They found her dead body in the canal close by, at a little before ten o'clock. Edward Neale, landlord of the Punch Bowl Inn, Nuneaton, testified that on the night in question a messenger came to him for assistance. He went at once, and found the father searching the canal. Witness assisted, and the body was shortly afterwards pulled out. The Coroner said that it was most probable that the child, while stepping from one boat to the other, fell between and was accidentally drowned. The Jury returned as their verdict that the deceased died from asphyxia caused by drowning.

130 25 October 1884

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, OCTOBER 22

SCHOOL CASES **John Millard**, boatman, Braunston, was charged on two separate summonses with neglecting the education of his daughters **Sarah Ann** and **Emma**. - Charges withdrawn.

131 29 November 1884

BRAUNSTON

SAD DEATH OF A LAD On Saturday last, Mr W Terry, county coroner, held an inquest at Braunston on the body of Henry Wilson aged 16 years. Deceased, who was paralysed, was the son of **Samuel Wilson**, a boatman, and had lately lived with his sisters. Deceased could not work, as he was not able to move about. He had lately been unwell, and on Thursday night appeared worse. Mr Bennett, surgeon, was sent for, and deceased was supplied with some medicine. On Friday morning he was taken worse, and on being removed from his bed by one of his sisters, died in her arms. It was stated by the sisters of the deceased that he had not wanted for food in any way. Mr C Bennett, surgeon, who was also attending the mother of the deceased for a serious illness at the same time, stated that he gave the deceased some medicine at the request of his sisters. After death he examined the body and found it very emaciated, owing to a deficiency of nourishment. In his opinion the cause of death was syncope and the failure of the heart's action from debility. The lower extremities were paralysed, but that would not necessarily affect the heart. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from syncope arising from debility owing to the want of sufficient nourishment".

132 29 August 1885

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY LAST

John Fell, boatman, was charged with keeping a dog without a licence. Defendant pleaded guilty. Fined 10s and costs 12s 6d.

133 17 October 1885

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, OCTOBER 14

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Thomas Jeffery**, boatman, Bugbrooke, was charged with cruelty to a horse by working it when it was unfit, at Whilton on the 28th September. PC Sorrill said he saw the defendant about 2 pm on the day in question. The horse was attached to two empty boats. Witness noticed that the horse flinched, and he went to look at it. He found on the off shoulder a raw wound 1 1/2 inches long and 1 1/4 inches wide. He told defendant it was not fit to work. Defendant said, "I had better take it home then". Witness took the horse to Mr Dix, a blacksmith, who measured the wound. Defendant said in consequence of having a horse drowned, he had used the horse in question, which had gone only seven miles, and he was not aware of the wound. He called as a witness John Baine Dawson, veterinary surgeon, Floore, who said the defendant took a horse to him on the 29th September to examine. He examined the horse, and found it suffering from a cutaneous disease for some years past. There was a pimple on the shoulder that had chafed. He covered it with a shilling. It was raw. The horse would not suffer. It was a wound of no magnitude. He

thought the wound had been caused within a few hours. The horse was fit to work. Fined 5s and costs 18s.

134 31 October 1885

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, OCTOBER 28

ASSAULT **David Marlow**, boatman of no fixed residence, was charged with assaulting **George Henry Tilley** at Whilton on the 16th inst. Mr Roche for the complainant, a lock-keeper, said the defendant was improperly putting up a paddle at the lock, by which the company's water was being wasted. Complainant went to prevent it, and the defendant struck him a violent blow on the face. John Bates corroborated the complainant's statement. Fined 10s and costs £1 5s 6d.

135 14 November 1885

PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 11

TRESPASS IN SEARCH OF CONIES John Webster, shoemaker, Forster's Booth, James Webster, shoemaker, Astcote, John Kirton, labourer, Astcote and **Thomas Jeffery**, boatman, Pattishall, were charged with trespassing in search of conies on land in the occupation of William Hurley, Stowe-Nine-Churches, on Sunday the 25th October. The Bench found the defendants guilty, and fined them each 20s and costs 9s 6d.

136 9 January 1886

POLESWORTH

INQUEST On Monday the 4th instant, Dr Iliffe, coroner for Warwickshire, held an inquest at the Chewynd Arms Inn, Polesworth, touching the death of **William Bricknall**, son of **James Bricknall**, a boatman of Braunston near Rugby, who was drowned in the canal at Polesworth on Saturday. It appeared that the mother put the child, who was four years old, to play on the towing path, when he fell in the water and was drowned. A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned.

137 16 January 1886

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JANUARY 13

STEALING OIL CAKE **John Major**, boatman, was charged with stealing a quantity of oil cake at Whilton Locks on the 4th December, the property of Thomas Henry Reynolds. **John Mellor**, Weedon, said the prisoner was in his employ on the 4th December. On that day, witness, with two boats, assisted by the prisoner and a boy, left Weedon and arrived at Whilton Locks about two o'clock. They were detained for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, to allow other boats to go through the locks. Witness saw Major come over the stile as from Mr Reynolds' premises. As he got over the stile, he held his pocket up, but witness saw nothing. Major went to the boat, which witness steered. From Whilton they went on to Polesworth, where they arrived on the 6th. Prisoner said to witness, "Governor, our horse has got a fine cough". Witness said, "I think the mistress has put a bit of oil cake in the cupboard here". Prisoner said, "Never fear, Old Tommy Reynolds went along the road, and I fetched it". Witness asked him how he came to do so. He replied, "I have fetched several lots before". Witness let the oil cake remain where it was. He brought it up to Weedon, where he showed it to the police, and subsequently he left it at Mr Reynolds's. Thomas Clements, a lad in the employ of the prosecutor, said he was grinding oil cake on the 4th December, when the prisoner went to the door and spoke to witness, who left for about three minutes to go for an empty sack, and when he returned the prisoner went away. Witness did not miss any oil cake. There was a large quantity in the granary where he was grinding. Thomas Henry Reynolds produced a sample from his warehouse ; it corresponded with the cake produced. The prisoner elected the summary jurisdiction of the Bench and pleaded not guilty. Mr Collingham (from the office of Mr Roche), who appeared for prisoner, remarked on the great weakness of the case for the prosecution, but hoped, if the Bench could not see their way to an acquittal, they would give the prisoner the option of a fine. In consequence of the prisoner having been in custody for eight days,

he was committed for a fortnight, with hard labour.

138 6 March 1886

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

ALLEGED CRUELTY TO DONKEYS A boy named **Charles Bromwich**, Emscote, was summoned for cruelly beating two donkeys at Hillmorton on February 18th, and **William Bromwich**, his father, a boatman, was summoned for aiding and abetting him. The defendants did not attend, and it appearing from the statement of PC Hayes that the case was a brutal one, a warrant was issued for their apprehension.

139 10 April 1886

PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY

GROSS CRUELTY TO DONKEYS **Charles Bromidge**, boatman, Warwick, was charged by Superintendent Palmer with cruelly beating two donkeys at Hillmorton on February 18th last, and **William Bromidge**, father of the above defendant, was charged with aiding and abetting his son to commit the said offence. Defendants were summoned a month ago, but did not then appear. They were, however, apprehended under a warrant and brought up on Saturday last, being remanded on bail till today. Defendants pleaded guilty. PC Hayes stated that on the night of the 18th of February a little after 11 pm, he was on duty on the canal side at Hillmorton, and heard two people talking in a boat. He heard a man's voice say, "Keep laying on him ; kill him, lay it on well". When the boat got nearer, witness saw that the younger defendant had got a mop, with which he was thrashing the donkeys as hard as he could, and the last blow he struck one of the animals "nearly knocked it double". Witness went up to the boy and stopped him, upon which the elder defendant called out, "Why don't you go on thrashing him? Lay it on thick". The boy replied, "He will not let me", upon which the man asked who was stopping him, and the boy replied, "The bobby". The defendant then threatened to settle the officer if he did not stop interfering with the boy. Witness took the donkeys to the Bell Inn, after getting the names and addresses of the defendants. He examined the animals next morning, and found them very much bruised, especially one of them, which appeared to be nothing but hair, skin and bone and was not fit to be put to draw a boat. It was a mass of wales (*sic*) all over the loins and back, and the other was very much beaten. By defendant : The donkeys were very much knocked about, and were very sore on the back. In mitigation, defendants denied there were any wales on either of the donkeys, and the elder defendant said he had had a "sup" of beer, which made him tell the boy to hit the animals. Superintendent Palmer said the defendants had been put to some expense in coming here from Warwick twice, and taking that into consideration, Mr Shuckburgh said they would be convicted, but would only have to pay the costs, £1 each.

[Note : name in previous article is shown as Bromwich]

140 17 April 1886

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, APRIL 14

STEALING A PAIR OF BELLOWS Betsy Monk, spinster, Paddington, was charged with stealing a pair of bellows at Braunston, the property of George Reader. Mr Roche for the defence. The prosecutor, a publican, recently removed his goods from Paddington to Braunston in a canal boat. He was at Paddington when the goods were removed, and he was also present when the goods were taken from the boat on December 12th. The next day, he missed a feather bed, two or three blankets, a warming pan, a pair of bellows and a whip. The bellows he valued at 1s. He saw the bellows put into the van which took the goods to the canal boat. He got a search warrant, and went with the police to Mrs Fox's to execute it on the 5th inst. He found the bellows produced, which he identified. They were not concealed, but hung up plainly to be seen. He went with PC Scotney to London the next day and found the prisoner at Wharf Road, Paddington. She said she took the bellows, some vases and some jugs, from the boat. She said the bellows were left in the boat. Prosecutor said he was certain the bellows were not left in the boat. **John Kendall**, boatman, Braunston, said he undertook to take the goods. He went to load the goods, but the prosecutor said

he had a competent person to load them, and witness went away. The man that was loading the goods had a pair of bellows like those produced, which he chucked aside into the boat, saying, "They will do for the girl". The prisoner, he thought, was in the boat at the time, but he did not know in what part. PC Scotney said on the 5th of April he searched the house of Phoebe Fox, a widow, grandmother of the prisoner. She showed a pair of bellows, now produced, which the prosecutor identified. The next day he went to London, and found prisoner at No 7, Wharf Road, Paddington. He read the charge to her, and she said she knew nothing at all about them. Witness cautioned her, and she said, "I found a pair of bellows at the bottom of the boat, and took them to my grandmother's". Defendant elected the summary jurisdiction of the Bench, and pleaded not guilty. Mr Roche addressed the Bench for the defence, and the Chairman said the case was one of some suspicion, but the evidence was insufficient, and the prisoner would have the benefit of the doubt. The case was dismissed.

141 5 June 1886

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY LAST

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Charles Ward**, boatman, Priors Hardwick, was charged by Inspector Welch with cruelly ill-treating a horse by working the same while in an unfit state, on the canal at Priors Hardwick on the 20th inst. Defendant, who did not appear, was represented by his master, **Mr Benjamin Beasley**, who pleaded guilty on his behalf. Inspector Welch deposed to the fact that the horse had a large raw wound underneath its collar. Mr Beasley said neither he nor defendant were aware that the horse had any wound upon it. Inspector Welch said the wound did not look like an old sore, but one that had been recently made. Mr Palmer Merewood asked whether it was possible for the sore to have come on the horse that morning. Inspector Welch said he thought it was older than that, and no doubt the person who put the horse's collar on when it started out must have seen the wound. Mr Lakin said it was very desirable that the police should bring these cases forward, and defendant was fined 1s and 14s costs.

142 3 July 1886

ATHERSTONE PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY JUNE 29

David Wiles, canal boatman of Longford, was charged with wounding another boatman at Boon's Wharf near Nuneaton, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm, on the 28th June. After hearing the evidence of complainant, Arthur Wallis, a woman named Woodhouse, PC Munroe and Dr Hammond, defendant was committed for trial at the Assizes.

143 31 July 1886

WARWICKSHIRE SUMMER ASSIZES

UNLAWFUL WOUNDING AT NUNEATON **David Wiles** (18), boatman, was indicted for feloniously wounding **Harley Shilcock**, a boatman, at Nuneaton on the 29th June. The jury found prisoner guilty of unlawfully wounding, and he was sent to gaol for three months.

144 14 August 1886

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 11

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Thomas Simpson**, boatman, Foleshill, and **William Deeman** of the same place, were separately summoned for cruelty. Simpson was the owner, and Deeman was in Simpson's employ. PC Scotney said he was at Braunston Locks about 5.20 am on the 22nd of July, when he saw Deeman driving a horse with two boats laden with coal. Witness told Deeman to stop, and on looking at the horse, he found two wounds on the off shoulder and one on the near shoulder. Each wound was about the size of a crown piece. Witness asked Deeman how long they had existed. Deeman replied, "As long as I have worked for him – about a month". Simpson, who was in the boat, sleeping there, came ashore. He admitted knowing of the wounds, and said he washed them the previous night. Simpson admitted the wounds were there, but said he thought they were not so large as described. Deeman said the wounds were about the size of a shilling. Simpson was

fined 30s and costs 10s ; against Deeman the charge was withdrawn, on payment of costs 10s 10d.

ANOTHER CASE **Thomas Bate**, boatman, West Bromwich, was charged with cruelty to a horse at Braunston on the 23rd of July. Joseph Brown said about 3 pm he saw the defendant with a horse attached to a boat laden with copper. The horse was in fair condition, but lame on the near fore leg, which was much inflamed. When standing, the horse raised the leg and evinced great pain. Defendant said he started from London on Tuesday, and arrived at Blisworth on Thursday. He perceived the lameness soon after leaving London. Ernest Rivett, veterinary surgeon, said he was called to see the defendant's horse. It was very lame on the near fore leg. It had a blister, and was not fit for work. Fined 40s and costs £1 14s 7d, or a month.

ANOTHER CASE **Frederick Warren**, boatman, Blisworth, was charged with cruelty to a horse at Braunston on the 23rd July. PC Scotney said about 3.45 he saw the defendant with a horse drawing two boats laden with coal. The horse was wearing a breast collar. Witness stopped the horse and lifted the collar, under which there was a string of wounds. It was like a mass, all raw. The defendant said it was bad when he started. He was in the employ of the Gayton Brick and Tile Company, and had been to Bedworth. Fined 50s and costs 12s 7d.

145 28 August 1886

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY AUGUST 23

DISOBEYING JUSTICES' ORDER **James Sanders**, boatman of no fixed residence, was charged with habitually disobeying an order made upon him on the 28th March 1883 to pay 1s 6d a week towards the support of his mother, **Sarah Sanders**, Braunston. Mr Birch, relieving officer, said that the defendant having now paid the money, the summons would be withdrawn.

146 4 September 1886

MAGISTERIAL, SATURDAY

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Edward King** of Berkhamstead, boatman, was brought up charged with working a horse while in an unfit state on the canal at Clifton on the previous day. He admitted the offence. PC Hayes stated that about 12.30 pm on Friday he met two horses drawing three boats on the canal, and seeing that one of them was working rather uneasily, he stopped it. On making an examination, he found under the collar on the off shoulder a very nasty wound, quite raw and wet ; on the near shoulder there was another wound, not quite so bad as the other, but also wet. He called defendant's attention to it, and he said he knew it was bad, and had tried a breast collar ; but it still seemed to be uneasy, and he did not know what to do with it. Defendant said when he bought the horse three weeks ago it was sound, but it proved unsuitable for his purpose, and before he had had it many days it began to pinch on the shoulder. He had been using a breast collar to ease the horse, and he had only just taken it off when the officer met him. In reply to the magistrate, Superintendent Palmer said defendant had been previously convicted at this Court for a similar offence. He was now fined 9s 6d and costs 10s 6d.

147 2 October 1886

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

DRUNKENNESS **John Hennessey** of Polesworth, boatman, was charged with being drunk at Hillmorton on Monday night. He pleaded guilty. PC Hayes stated that he was sent for to the New Inn, where he found the defendant very drunk and trying to get into the house. He told witness that he wanted a shilling that he had left inside, and on making enquiry witness ascertained that he had asked the landlady to supply him with beer, but being drunk she refused, and he threw the shilling on the floor. Defendant went away, and presently afterwards witness found him lying on the road partly undressed. Defendant expressed his sorrow, and asked to be leniently dealt with. Superintendent Palmer said defendant stopped behind his boat and got drunk. Fined 2s 6d.

148 9 October 1886

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 6

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS **William Bryant**, boatman, Napton, was charged with cruelly ill-treating an ass at Braunston on the 9th September. The prosecution was taken up by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. James Dodd, labourer, Willoughby, saw defendant with a donkey drawing a boat laden with stones. He struck it a great many times with the butt end of a short whip. Witness remonstrated with him, gave information to a policeman, and also examined the donkey, discovering bumps and bruises on its hips and ribs. John Jones saw the defendant strike the donkey forty or fifty times with all his might. PC Scotney followed defendant who, seeing him, ran away and left the donkey, which witness found much swollen. Defendant returned after a while, and said he had beaten the donkey in a temper. He said the boat contained 29 tons of stone. Fined £1 and costs £1 5s, or one month.

149 16 October 1886

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13

ASSAULT **Harry Earl**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with assaulting Elizabeth Louise Maltby of the same place on the 5th. It appeared from the evidence that the two parties were not on good terms, and meeting on the occasion in question, some abusive language passed between them and, according to the prosecutrix, the accused struck her and pulled her clothes. This was denied by the only witness of the occurrence, and by the defendant, and the Bench dismissed the case.

150 25 December 1886

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, DECEMBER 22

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **John Johns**, boatman, Droitwich, was charged with cruelty to a horse by causing it to be worked when in an unfit state ; and **Thomas Wilson**, his servant, was charged with cruelty by working the said horse when in an unfit state, on the 20th inst at Braunston. James Brown, inspector of the RSPCA, laid the information. PC Scotney said about 7 am on the 20th he, in plain clothes, visited the stop at Braunston Lock, where he waited until 10, and saw defendant Wilson take the horse from Cope's stables in the direction of the Oxford Canal. Witness went across some fields and secreted himself. About 11, a horse, drawing two boats, both laden, attended by Johns, came up. Wilson then attached the first mentioned horse to a boat containing 25 tons of whiting and sand. Both horses then moved on, drawing separate boats. Witness saw the horse Wilson was in charge of was very lame, and he called upon Wilson to stop, whereupon witness took the horse back to Mr Cope's stables, Johns and Wilson going with him. The off fore leg of the horse was bandaged, and on removing the bandage he found the knee very much swollen and blistered. The near hind leg also was swollen, and there were two large wounds on the off shoulder. The horse was in very poor condition. Johns admitted to him that the horse was his, and that he knew its state. Wilson did not speak. Inspector James Brown examined the animal the next day, and found it totally unfit for work, and corroborated the testimony of the previous witness. Johns said he was taking the horse home to give it a rest, and had not worked it for a fortnight. Ernest Rivett, veterinary surgeon, found the horse in a very poor condition and quite unfit for work. In his opinion, it would never be fit for work again. Edmund Charles Burton said he had no doubt the horse was one he saw going by Brockhall on Sunday the 19th. The leg was bandaged, and the horse very lame. If it was well, it was too small to be so heavily burdened. The Chairman said it was a very bad case, and showed great brutality. They must give the defendant Johns three months. Wilson to be fined 5s and costs 18s 8d.

151 22 January 1887

BRICKYARD, CANAL AND GIPSY VAN CHILDREN On Thursday evening last, Mr George Smith of Coalville delivered a lecture in St Matthew's Infant Schoolroom, in connection with the Rugby Men's Christian Association, his subject being "Brickyard, Canal and Gipsy van children, and the steps I have taken to improve their condition". There was a very good attendance. The

chair was taken by the Rev W O Wait who, in briefly introducing the lecturer, said the name of George Smith of Coalville had become a household word all over the country.

Mr Smith then delivered his lecture and, in doing so, said that after 25 years' agitation, Parliament had been made to see the hardships of children working in brickyards, canal boats and gipsy vans. Dealing first with brickyard children, he said he himself entered a brickyard at seven years of age, and remembered one night carrying 1200 bricks from the maker to the kiln floor, for which he got 6s, although he had to travel in the aggregate about 14 miles. What little education he was able to get, was obtained at a night school, to pay for which he had to work in the kilns at night. Brickyard children generally were shamefully beaten and whipped, which was due to the drink that was consumed by the men. Girls of tender years were made to trample down the soft clay until they frequently sank in up to their waists. In 1859, he (Mr Smith) took the management of a brickyard, and it was then that he commenced to bring about those reforms which were afterwards embodied in the 5th section of the Factories and Workshops Act, 1871, which, among other things, prohibits the employment of child labour under 12 years of age in brickyards. From 1859 to 1878, during which period he managed the brickyard, his employers never lost a farthing by any reforms which he was instrumental in bringing about. In 1868, when he was despairing of accomplishing the work, he had a strange dream, which he related, and which urged him on to fresh efforts, and in July of that year he sent a letter to what was then the *Morning Star*, which no one condescended to notice. In the *British Workman* of January 1870, there appeared a woodcut showing child labour in brickyards, and also an article written by himself; and the *Graphic* and *Illustrated London News* also helped him a good deal. At the Social Science Congress in 1870, he read a paper on the employment of child labour in brickyards, which became the groundwork of a book which he afterwards wrote. As a consequence of that paper, the Brickyards Bill became law in August 1871, by which redemption was brought to 30,000 children, and on January 1st 1872, 20,000 of that number were attending schools. At first the Bill met with considerable opposition from the brickmasters and makers, and also the Royal Commission which sat at Hanley, but eventually it was passed; finally, Sir Richard Cross's bill amending the Workshops Act, passed in 1879, might be said to crown the whole with victory, for by then, no girl under the age of 16 could be employed in a brickyard. Turning next to canal boat children, Mr Smith said they were, if anything, worse off than the little brickyard slaves. He had tramped hundreds of miles along canal banks so as to thoroughly understand the subject, and the Queen had taken a great interest in his work from the first. Two years ago, her Majesty sent him £300, and six years since she graciously sent him £50 as a New Year's gift; that was one of the secrets of his success. Roughly speaking, there were at present 30,000 boats travelling in Great Britain over about 4,000 miles of rivers and canals. In 1872, he stated that there were 100,000 men, women and children connected with canal boats, but in 1876, further experience taught him that the number did not exceed 80,000. Out of that number, not more than 5 per cent could read and write, and not more than 2 per cent of the children attended a day or Sunday school. One of the greatest curses of a boatman's life was Sunday travelling and labour. Out of 20,000 canal boats in the country, something like 18,000 were Sabbath breakers. On an average, between 40 and 50 boats passed Hillmorton Locks every Sunday, and nearly the same number passed through Welton Tunnel on the Sabbath. In addition to these evils, drunkenness prevailed in a large extent among the boatmen, which was not to be wondered at, as on average there was a public house every two miles, and it was found that 20,000 boating families spent on an average 6s a week in drink, the amount of beer consumed by them being sufficient to fill a canal six miles long, sixteen feet wide and three feet deep. Cruelty to animals was also predominant among the "boatees", and a case occurred at Derby some time ago in which a man kicked his donkey to death on the towing path. To remedy all these ills, the lecturer recommended that all canals ought to be bought up by Government. At present, most of the canals belonged to railway companies, who tried to keep up canal rates so as to increase the value of railways. He advocated the making of a canal from London to Liverpool, large enough to accommodate boats of 100 to 200 tons burthen, and so constructed that all smaller canals might run into it. In Scotland and Ireland, canal boats were much larger and better constructed than in this country; the cabins of the "monkey boats"

usually seen on our canals being only about six feet by seven, and very few of them were over 25 tons. In Scotland and Ireland also neither women nor children were employed. He then gave several instances of the ignorance existing among canal boat children, stating that in one case he had met with, he found on a boat one man, a woman and seven children, of both sexes, and not one of them could read or write, and he was informed by the woman that she had sent three of the children to school, but they were refused admission. As a matter of fact, the educational clause of the Act of 1884 had not yet been touched, the pass books not having been yet printed. What was required was that each boat should be registered and numbered, and then made amenable to some sanitary authority. Having described the use of the pass books, which had to be presented at every school to which the children were sent, Mr Smith commented on the unwillingness of schoolmasters to receive them, on the ground that they would get no grant for them, and he recommended that the Government should pay each schoolmaster about one penny for each attendance a child made according to its pass book. As to the objection made against canal children mixing with other children in schools, the lecturer contended that they would be kept as clean as any others. Touching on the duties of inspectors under the Canal Boats Act, he deprecated the custom of officers running after boats, and said it would be better if an inspector was sent to a certain place – Braunston for instance – for a week, where he would be able to inspect more boats than in any other way. Turning finally to gipsy van children, Mr Smith stated that there were at present 30,000 children living in tents and vans, five per cent of whom could neither read nor write, while 50 per cent of the men and women were living together unmarried. Having given several anecdotes which had come under his personal notice at Hinckley Fair, Upton Park, Northampton, Boughton Green Fair, Daventry and other places, to show to what an extent overcrowding in vans was carried on, he said at West Haddon Flower Show last year, in two vans there were no less than 18 children and seven men and women, none of whom could read or write. Gipsying was vastly on the increase, which was due to the large numbers in families and the restrictions of town life. In large towns like Sheffield, the lower classes had taken to gipsying to escape rates and taxes. In order to bring the children under the care of the schoolmaster, and the vans under the care of sanitary officials by registration and numbering, he had drawn up a small bill called the Moveable Dwellings Bill, which also compelled the provision of a certain space for each occupant of a van or tent. The lecturer then went on to say that what was wanted was more sympathy with the work by all classes, and to ensure this he had started a “Band of Love” of which, he stated, the Queen, the Princess Beatrice and Sir Henry Ponsonby were members. Having given the objects and symbols of the band, including the “left hand shake”, the lecturer, in conclusion, expressed a hope that the condition of the children for whom he was working would soon be ameliorated by the reforms which he intended by God's help to bring about. (Loud applause).

A vote of thanks to the lecturer, proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr Alcott, having been passed, and the Doxology sung, the meeting terminated.

152 12 March 1887

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, MARCH 9

KEEPING A DOG WIHOUT A LICENCE **John Seymour**, boatman, Brierley Hill, for keeping a dog at Braunston on the 21st February without a licence, was fined 5s and costs 19s 8d.

153 7 May 1887

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, MAY 4

STEALING EGGS **Albert Edwards**, Braunston, a child aged eight, the son of a boatman, was charged with stealing two hen's eggs, value 1 1/2d, the property of Henry Luck, carrier, of the same place. Job Luck said that from a communication made to him about four o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday the 26th of April, he went to his brother's hen roost. When he got there, the defendant was just coming out of the hole through which the fowls go in and out. Witness took hold of him by the collar, and an egg fell out of his bosom. Witness took another egg from him. He asked him what he was going to do with the eggs. Prisoner said he was going to take them to Mrs Luck (prosecutor's

wife) ; she had sent him for them. Witness detained him and sent for his brother. Henry Luck said he was sent for between four and five o'clock on the 26th ult. He found the prisoner shut up in a stable. He asked the prisoner what he was going to do with the eggs, and he said he was going to take them to his mother. He said he had been and had two before, and said he took them to his mother. He afterwards saw prisoner at PC Scotney's house, and Mrs Edwards was present. The boy then said he got the eggs for a boy named Kendal. His mother said he had never taken any eggs home. The prisoner made several contradictory statements. Mrs Edwards, for her son, elected the summary jurisdiction of the Court, and after refusing to speak for some time, prisoner pleaded guilty. Prosecutor said he did not wish to press the case against this child, but he wished the injurious practice of boys damaging his fowls put a stop to. The Bench ordered three strokes of a birch rod to be inflicted, and hoped it would be a warning to others as well as to the prisoner.

154 4 June 1887

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

ALLEGED THREATS Louisa Coles, wife of **Thomas Coles**, canal boatman, was charged by **Ann Hambridge** with using threats towards her at Rugby Wharf on May 22nd. Defendant, on entering the box, said she was a stranger to the job, and they must put her right. (Laughter). Mr Peagam appeared for the defendant, who pleaded not guilty. Complainant stated that on Sunday night the defendant came to her boat, used insulting language, and threatened to fight her. She struck at witness with her fist twice, but by drawing back she avoided the blow. Defendant used bad language, and her husband, Thomas Coles, came and said, "Fetch her out of the boat, and I'll settle her". Mrs Coles did not do anything else. This was the first time the defendant had threatened her, but she "becalled" her a week ago. Mr Peagam objected to any evidence being given as to what the husband said, or as to what the defendant said a week ago. Mr Boughton-Leigh said that as the complainant prayed for sureties of the peace, there was probably something behind it bearing on the threats. Cross-examined : Witness's son married defendant's daughter, and she had been good friends with the defendant, but the latter had accused her of things she was entirely innocent of. She never spoke to defendant, and could, therefore, be on no better terms. The last time she was in defendant's house was five or six months ago, and then she tried to quarrel with her. No one was present when the defendant came to her cabin. Defendant was almost like a mad woman ; she was very violent. Defendant said if witness came off the boat she would fight it out. She had never used any threats to witness before. Defendant never threatened witness in any other kind of way. Since witness had applied for the summons, she had been to the colliery and back, about her daily work. She did not know what defendant had been doing, but the latter had not interfered with witness since witness had taken out the summons, as she and witness were miles apart. Witness did not go in fear of her life from defendant, but from the other woman. The Bench at this point thought the case had failed, and it was accordingly dismissed.

A COUPLE OF PUGILISTIC BOATWOMEN Elizabeth Bricknell, wife of **James Bricknell**, canal boatman, was charged by **Ann Hambridge**, wife of **William Hambridge**, with using threats towards her at Rugby Wharf on May 22nd. Sergeant Webb said they had been unable to serve the summons upon the defendant, as she was up and down the canal and they were unable to find her. The summons had been to several places, but as yet they could not ascertain where she was. At a later stage of the proceedings, however, the defendant put in an appearance, and said she wished to have the case settled. Mr Peagam appeared on her behalf also, and she pleaded not guilty. Complainant stated that on the 22nd May, when Mrs Coles, the defendant in the last case, came to the boat, defendant came up at the same time and threatened to murder her. Defendant also picked up a mop stick, as big round as her wrist, and struck at witness. The blow, however, fell short and caught the corner of the cabin. Witness's husband then shoved her into the cabin and shut her up. The defendant and Mrs Coles meanwhile kept up a constant stream of abuse. Defendant had threatened to murder her three or four times, once on the Midland Canal, again at Oxford, and on two other occasions. Defendant : Oh, Mrs Hambridge ; oh, Mrs Hambridge, how can you stand

there and tell such lies? This is a little jealousy over the way in which we do our work. You let me alone, Mrs Hambridge, and you can trust your life in my hands. The Chairman : Hold your tongue. Defendant : I can't, sir, when she will not tell the truth. Witness, continuing, said her doctor had told her not to excite herself, as it made her heart beat so fast. (Laughter). She was afraid defendant would do her some bodily injury, and witness went in fear of her life. Cross-examined by Mr Peagam : It was twelve months ago that defendant threatened her first. They met defendant nearly every week. During the whole of that twelve months, defendant had attempted to murder her four or five times. Defendant : And you have threatened to murder me. Witness : I have not, Betsey. Defendant : Call the witnesses. By Mr Peagam : Witness's husband put her in the cabin because he was afraid defendant would hit her again. Witness did not want to come out of the cabin, but she asked her husband to open the door, as she was so hot ; she had got a bigger fire than she ought to have had. William Hambridge, husband of last witness, stated that from something he heard, he made haste to his boat on this particular occasion. He saw defendant come up and tuck her sleeves up, threaten his wife, and then strike at her with a mop stick. Witness warded off the blow with his hand ; the blow was aimed at his wife's head. Defendant had threatened his wife several times ; she had threatened to murder her. Defendant : You went about after our work, and wanted us to do our work for less. Oh dear, oh dear, what lies, it is enough to make your flesh drop. (Laughter). I sat on the stones, and should never have went near her had she not abused me first. Witness, continuing, said a little excitement made his wife's heart bad. By Mr Peagam : Defendant had had to have recourse to the police at Oxford, where defendant also threatened to murder his wife. Witness had never summoned defendant before, and notwithstanding all these threats, defendant had never put them into execution until the day in question at Rugby Wharf. Witness was quite convinced that defendant would have murdered his wife with the mop on Sunday night if she could have got at her. Defendant : Why, I never touched a mop ; I have witnesses to prove it. In answer to the Bench, witness said he had two boats of his own, and he really believed that defendant would murder his wife if she got the chance. John Walton, in charge at Rugby Wharf, said on the day in question he saw defendant go up to complainant in the boat, and say to the latter, "I will knock your brains out". Witness did not see anything in defendant's hand at the time. That was all he heard. Witness had been in the employ of the Oxford Canal Company for the last 32 years. By Mr Peagam : Witness was about 30 or 40 yards away from the parties when the altercation took place. Witness stood there about five minutes, and the defendant was there when witness returned to his house. He did not know when defendant went away. James Hirons, Chapel Street, Rugby, labourer, stated that on the day in question, he saw a woman come up to Hambridge's boat, and say, "Come out of your boat, and I will settle you". She then threw her bonnet and shawl off. He did not know whether defendant was the woman, or whether it was Mrs Coles. In defence, Mr Peagam submitted that these people, who worked upon the canal, were entirely by themselves, and were in the habit of using this violent language. The question was whether these few quarrelsome words were to be accepted as a threat to murder. The object of sureties of the peace was to protect the person and ensure the future good conduct of the person charged, and as a summons was issued instead of a warrant, he thought it was a good answer to the charge that defendant had not tried to carry out her threats since the summons had been issued. Having commented on the discrepancies between the evidence of complainant's husband and that of John Walton, Mr Peagam called the defendant, who was sworn, and stated that she had known the complainant for the last eighteen years. She had been on the canal all her life, and had never been summoned for anything before. On the 22nd May last, her (defendant's) boat was at Rugby Wharf, and on the evening of that day she went up to complainant's boat, and heard complainant say that she (defendant) bore a bad character at Northampton. Witness warned complainant that she should hit her if she said that again, and as she still continued to use abusive language, she (defendant) lifted up her fist and said she would strike her if she used that language again. Witness never used a mop, nor did she see one or a mop stick about the place. She certainly never struck at complainant with a mop. Defendant had never threatened to murder complainant, nor had she abused her any more than the complainant had threatened her. Complainant ought to be bound over, and not

witness. There was a little grievance between them, but witness had no intention of murdering complainant. She did not look like murdering anybody, did she? (Laughter). In answer to the Bench, complainant said she had no desire to ask defendant any questions, as she had been telling a "pack of lies". (Laughter). James Bricknell, husband of the defendant, stated that on the 22nd May he recollected defendant and complainant "rowing" together. Witness was in the stable, about 30 yards off, and never saw a mop stick in anybody's hand. He did not go to them, nor could he hear what they were saying. Witness stood watching them about half an hour. He had never heard his wife threaten to murder complainant, neither then nor at Oxford. They had met each other several times over the last twelve months. **George Berrill**, in the employ of **William Humphries**, who had a boat on the canal, stated that he was at Rugby Wharf on Saturday 21st May. He saw Mrs Hambridge that day against the boat, and she asked him where Mrs Bricknell was. On Sunday, witness heard a row between complainant and defendant. They were "rowing" for about half an hour. Witness did not see defendant with a mop stick in her hand. **Thomas Coles**, boatman, stated that on the 22nd May he was at Rugby Wharf. During the day, he heard a bit of a row between complainant and defendant. Witness was in the stable "supping" his horse, and saw Mrs Hambridge and his wife against the former's boat. Complainant picked up the mop, and looked at his wife as if she was going to make his wife swallow the mop, stick and all. (Loud laughter). Defendant was present at the time. Witness's wife was on the company's ground and complainant on her boat, and his wife fairly challenged complainant out, but the latter would not come and fight. Witness was quite willing to settle with the complainant's husband in the same way. (Laughter). Defendant did not threaten to murder Mrs Hambridge; she only did what any woman would have done under the circumstances, namely defend her character when complainant called her. Their character was as good as complainant's, if not superior, and he could prove it. The Bench said the evidence was very conflicting, but they bound defendant over to keep the peace for six months in her own recognisances of £10 and two sureties of £10 each, and also to pay the costs, £1 7s 6d.

155 18 June 1887

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY

CHARGES OF GAME TRESPASS **Amos Hanson** of 44 Wharf Street, Emscote, boatman, was summoned by James Marks of Stockton for trespassing in search of game on land at Grandborough in the occupation of John Grendon, on May 29th. Defendant pleaded not guilty. PC Marks stated that about four o'clock on the morning in question he was on duty in plain clothes on Mr Grendon's farm, and saw the defendant working along several hedges in a stooping position with a gun. Witness subsequently met him on the towing path on the canal and took the gun off him, and found that both barrels were loaded. Defendant admitted to him that he had been in the field, but not in search of game. PC Ward gave corroborative evidence. In defence, defendant called his brother William, who said that the defendant only went after a crow. Mr Grendon informed the magistrates that he was much annoyed by persons going along the canal trespassing on his land which adjoined it, and he was determined to bring all future cases forward. Fined £1, including costs.

156 13 August 1887

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 10

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Alfred Simpson**, boatman, Foleshill, and **William Harban**, his servant, were charged with cruelty to a horse at Braunston on the 10th July, by working it when in an unfit state. Harban did not appear, and the charge was heard in his absence. PC Scotney proved the charge. The Bench thought it a very bad case, and inflicted a fine of £1 14s and costs 10s 6d on Simpson, and dismissed the charge against the servant on payment of 6s costs by Simpson, the master.

157 20 August 1887

SPECIAL PETTY SESSIONS, THURSDAY

ALLEGED ROBBERY FROM THE PERSON Emily Gascoigne of Newbold-on-Avon, widow,

and George Tomes, also of Newbold, labourer, who lodged with her, were brought up in custody charged with stealing £3 from the person of **Philip Miller** of Weedon, boatman. Prosecutor stated that about eight o'clock in the evening of the 16th inst, he was at Newbold, where he met the female prisoner and went with her to the Crown public house. The male defendant afterwards came in, and they all had drink together. They left altogether at ten o'clock. Before leaving, witness had changed half a sovereign to pay for beer, and he had then in his purse £3 in gold and some silver. He tied the money up in his purse, which he placed in a bag and put it in his left hand trousers pocket. On leaving the inn, they all went to the "lady's" house, his (witness's) man named **Carter** going with him. After they got there, witness sent the prisoner Tomes for some beer, and gave him half a crown to bring what he liked. About half an hour afterwards, Carter went away, and witness slept in the house. About two o'clock in the morning, witness missed his purse. He taxed the female prisoner with robbing him, but she denied it, and after some conversation said, "Don't make a noise ; let's look about and see if you have been robbed". She lifted up the pillow and pulled out the bag in which he had placed the purse, but neither purse nor money were in it. Tomes then came into the room, and Mrs Gascoigne asked him if he had robbed witness, and he also denied it. Witness subsequently went out, and gave information to PC Bracebridge. In reply to the Bench, witness said he could not exactly say how much he paid when in the public house. He perhaps paid for five or six quarts of ale, he could not remember exactly to a quart ; but he was not so far gone that he did not know what he was doing. John Carter gave corroborative evidence as to what took place in the public house, and as to the amount of money in the prosecutor's purse when he changed the half sovereign. Prosecutor put the purse in his right hand pocket. In reply to the Bench, witness said his master was not quite sober, but he knew what he was doing. Continuing his evidence, witness said that while at the prisoners' house, Tomes bought three quarts of beer, and when witness said something to him about giving up the change out of the half crown prosecutor had given him to pay for it, the female prisoner said, "What's that to do with you ; it's time you were going". Witness went out, and as soon as he got outside, Mrs Gascoigne locked the door after him. In reply to the female defendant, witness denied that she locked both him and the prosecutor outside. Tomes said that both prosecutor and Carter went outside, and he and Mrs Gascoigne went to bed. The prosecutor came back and kicked up a row, and they had to go downstairs again to let him in. Samuel Redley, landlord of the Crown Inn, also bore out the evidence of the last witness as to prosecutor's condition, and the fact that he changed half a sovereign and put the remainder of the money into the bag produced. PC Bracebridge deposed that on receiving information of the robbery from the prosecutor, he went with him to Mrs Gascoigne's house about 3 am. Witness knocked and tried for about an hour to get in, and receiving no answer he left. Later on in the morning he arrested the prisoners, and in answer to the charge, both of them denied it. He searched the house, but found nothing. Prosecutor had had beer, but knew what he was doing. Prisoners said they did not hear anyone knock, or they should have opened the door immediately. The prisoners were committed for trial, and bail was allowed.

158 27 August 1887

LONG BUCKBY

SAD DEATH FROM DROWNING W Terry Esq, county coroner, held an inquest at the George, Long Buckby, on Monday, touching the death of **Thomas Stevens**, when the following evidence was elicited :- **James Stevens** of Buckby Wharf, boatman, said the deceased, who was 13 years of age, was his son. On Sunday, witness was coming up the Grand Junction Canal with his boat from Stow Hill, not loaded, to Leicester. They should stay at the wharf for Sunday, and as they approached the third lock, he sent deceased on to open it. It would be full at the time, and he would have to close the top gates, and then go to the lower gate to let out the water. Deceased was with him on his holiday, and was pleased to do the work. Witness was in the boat steering, and the man was with the horse. When he got to the lock, he was told that the lad had slipped in. Witness's little boy, aged 9, was with the deceased, and said that he was closing the gate, and pulling at the staple at the end, when his heel slipped up. Mr Jones, canal agent, said he heard a child cry out and, on

going to the spot, saw deceased in the water, both gates being open. Witness got a pole and went round to get at him. He was then struggling under the surface of the water, but before witness could touch him, he gradually sank in 15 feet of water. The father recovered the body with a drag he had in the boat. Young lads were accustomed to do the sort of work deceased was doing. Every endeavour possible was used to recover the body. Mr F Dix, surgeon, Long Buckby, said that death was clearly due to suffocation from drowning, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned".

159 17 September 1887

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, SEPTEMBER 14

BASTARDY ORDER John Stevens, boatman, Long Buckby, was charged with being in arrears to the amount of £7 16s. Emma Hollis, Long Buckby, said that she obtained an order on the defendant in September 1885 for 4s a week for the support of two girls. He had paid her nothing at all under the order. In December last, he was sent to gaol for two months for default. The amount accruing due since then was £7 16s. The defendant, who had been arrested on a warrant, said he had had three calendar months for bigamy. His wife having disappeared for seven years, he considered himself a free man, and had in consequence married the complainant, but had been imprisoned for it. He was willing to live with the complainant and support the children, or to have the elder one away and leave the younger with her, but this offer she would not accept. She was now living with another man, and under the circumstances he would not pay a farthing. Committed for two months.

160 26 November 1887

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 23

CRUELTY TO A HORSE William Dawson, boatman, Birmingham, was charged with cruelty to a horse by working it when in an unfit state. The defendant did not appear. The Bench decided to hear the case in the absence of the defendant, and after hearing the evidence, fined him £2 and costs 11s 6d or one month.

161 24 December 1887

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

CRUELTY TO A PONY David Allen, boatman, Kettlebrook near Tamworth, was charged with working a pony whilst in an unfit state, at Easenhall on December 14th. Defendant said he could not say whether it was fit for work or not, and eventually he pleaded not guilty. The magistrates having viewed the pony, Sergeant Moore deposed that about 3.30 pm on the day named, he saw the pony and another drawing an empty boat on the canal at Easenhall. He followed them some distance, and noticed the pony, which seemed to be very old and weak, reeling about apparently from weakness. Witness asked him to stop, and examined the pony, which was in a very low condition. The hair was off the inside of the hocks, but there were no fresh sores. The near hind leg seemed almost useless ; it knocked against the other at every three or four steps. Defendant admitted to him that it was low and weak, and said that this was the time of year for it. Defendant, who admitted that what the officer said was true, said in defence that he was a poor man, and if he had done wrong he had done it in ignorance. He had two ponies pulling an empty boat, and surely they could do that, when he could have done it himself. The hardship was upon him, for he had a wife and family at Tamworth, and they were almost starving for bread. He offered to take the pony off when the officer spoke to him, and he now promised not to use it again. In reply to the Bench, Superintendent Palmer said he knew the defendant was very poor, and was not aware of any other offence against him. Mr Boughton-Leigh told defendant the Bench had no doubt the animal was totally unfit to be worked, but as he seemed to be very poor, they would deal leniently with the case and order him to pay costs only, 11s 6d. He must, however, remember that if he was a poor person, it was no excuse for ill using an animal.

162 31 December 1887

BRINKLOW

CRUELTY TO A MULE At Coventry on Friday last week, **Samuel Cox**, boatman of Brinklow, was summoned by PC Lea for having worked a mule while in an unfit condition on the 17th inst. The defendant pleaded guilty, and the constable stated that there were several raw sores on the mule, and that the animal was also lame. The defendant said he had no desire to be cruel, and he did not think the mule was so bad as it was. The Superintendent of Police said that nothing was known against the defendant, but there were frequent complaints of the great cruelty practised on the canal side. The Bench fined the defendant 5s and costs 12s 6d, and intimated that future cases would be severely dealt with.

163 28 April 1888

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, APRIL 25

KEEPING A DOG WITHOUT A LICENCE **George Albutt**, boatman, Ladbrook, was charged with keeping a dog without a licence at Braunston on the 25th March. PC Scotney said he saw defendant in a boat. He had a dog. Witness asked for the licence, and defendant said he had one, but could not produce it at the moment. He subsequently said he had not one. In his defence he said he had been so very short of work lately he had not been able to buy a licence. Fined 10s and costs 9s 6d. Allowed 14 days to pay ; in default 14 days.

164 11 August 1888

MAGISTERIAL, SATURDAY

CRUELTY TO A DONKEY **William Wills**, boatman of Hartshill near Atherstone, was summoned for ill-treating a donkey while working it while in an unfit condition at Brownsover that morning. PC Penn proved seeing the donkey being worked ; and defendant was remanded till Tuesday, bail being accepted.

165 11 August 1888

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

CRUELTY TO A DONKEY **William Wills**, boatman, Hartshill, was charged on remand with cruelty to a donkey, by working the same while in an unfit condition at Brownsover on August 4th. Defendant pleaded guilty. PC Penn deposed that on the morning of the 4th inst he was at Brownsover at 1.30, and saw four donkeys grazing on the path. He examined the donkeys, and found one of them suffering from a sore shoulder. He directly after saw PC Hayes, and together they watched the donkeys, and about 5.15 the defendant commenced to work them, and the officers then informed him that he would be summoned. The wounds were old ones and were about the size of a shilling. Superintendent Hall said he examined the donkey, and found several old wounds, two of which were raw and painful. The man had told witness that the donkey had been turned out while the wounds healed, and he (witness) was of opinion that this was so, but that the animal was worked again before it was fit. Defendant said the donkey had been turned out for a fortnight, and had only worked about five hours when the officers went. Defendant was found guilty, and ordered to pay £1 including costs.

166 25 August 1888

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 22

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **George Bayliss**, boatman, Birmingham, was charged with cruelty to a horse at Braunston on the 19th of August. PC Scotney said he was on duty in plain clothes about five o'clock on Sunday last, when he saw defendant with a horse drawing a boat laden with twenty five tons of bricks. On examining the horse, he found the shoulder very tender, and on lifting the collar there was a wound two and three quarters of an inch across. As he lifted the collar, the centre of the wound came with it. The horse was produced and viewed by several of the Magistrates, who said it was in shameful condition. Fined £5 and costs 11s, or two months with hard labour.

167 29 September 1888

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY

USING THREATS **Frank Woodhouse**, boatman, Stockton, was summoned by George Alsop the younger, labourer, Napton, for using threats towards him at Grandborough on August 21st. Defendant, who it appeared threatened to knock complainant's eyes out with a windlass, was bound over to keep the peace towards the complainant.

168 3 November 1888

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY

ABSENTEES **George Bayliss**, boatman, Stourbridge, was summoned by Inspector Welch for cruelty to a horse at Stockton on the 14th October. Defendant did not appear, and the case was adjourned for a fortnight.

169 10 November 1888

DAVENTRY BOROUGH POLICE, NOVEMBER 7

DRUNK ON LICENSED PREMISES **Philip Mellor**, boatman, Weedon, and **Henry Higgins**, boatman, Birmingham, were charged with being drunk on licensed premises at Long Buckby Wharf on the 30th October. PC Thomas said he went to the Boar beerhouse about 11 am on the 30th ult, where he saw the defendants. They were both drunk, and had some beer before them. He went to the house again about two o'clock and they were still there, and more intoxicated. About 5 o'clock, he went again to the Boar, and the defendant Higgins was still there. On going to the house the first time, witness called the attention of the landlord to the defendants, and he replied, "They are getting on". Inspector Lovejoy of the RSPCA corroborated the police officer. PC Scotney said when he served the summons on the defendant Higgins, he said, "We were all drunk together". Mellor did not appear, and the case was heard in his absence. They were each fined 6d, and the costs in Higgins's case came to £1 1s 5d and Mellor's 10s 10d.

170 17 November 1888

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **George Bayliss**, boatman, Stockton, was charged with working a horse at Stockton on October 10th while in an unfit state. Defendant pleaded guilty. PC Boulton said that on the day named he and PC Stockford saw the horse pulling a boat laden with pig iron. They examined the horse, and found a raw wound underneath the collar. The animal was taken to a veterinary surgeon, who examined it and dressed the wound ; and having had a rest of ten days, it was working again. Mr Welch stated that only a few weeks before, the defendant was fined £5 and costs at Daventry for working the same horse while in an unfit condition. Defendant said the wounds were healed when he started to work. The horse was a "thorough bred blood Irish horse" (laughter). If the Bench would deal leniently with him, he would have the animal destroyed. Defendant was ordered to pay costs 10s 6d and have the horse destroyed.

171 24 November 1888

RUGBY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Charles Kendall** of Hillmorton, boatman, was charged by Superintendent Hall for working a horse while in an unfit state at Hillmorton on November 18th. He pleaded guilty. PC Hayes stated that about noon on the day in question he saw the horse drawing a boat on the canal. It was very lame and had not a sound leg to stand upon, in fact it could scarcely get along. On raising the collar, witness found a large sore on each shoulder. Defendant told him it belonged to Mr Chamberlain, who had gone on in front. **Thomas Chamberlain** of the same place, boatman, was charged with causing the horse to be worked. He pleaded guilty, and said he did not know the animal was lame till the officer called his attention to it. The magistrates having viewed the horse, defendant Chamberlain asked the Bench to deal leniently with him, and he would, if they wished, have the animal destroyed. Mr Boughton-Leigh said they considered it was a very bad

case. The horse was really quite painful to look upon, and was being treated in a disgustingly barbarous manner. The shoulders were in a very bad state ; it was very lame in every leg, and it shrank away if even a hand were held up. Defendant would be fined the full penalty of £5 and costs 16s 6d, and Fendall would have to pay 10s and costs 11s 6d.

172 8 December 1888

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, DECEMBER 5

VACCINATION **Emmanuel Stevens**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with neglecting to have his child vaccinated. The case was adjourned a fortnight ago for the transmission of the certificate, and as it did not arrive before the last week's sitting, the case was further adjourned. The Vaccination Officer appeared today, and as he had not received the certificate, the charge was withdrawn.

173 22 March 1890

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, MARCH 19

VACCINATION ORDER **James Stevens**, boatman, Long Buckby, was summoned to show cause why an order to have his child vaccinated should not be made. Thomas Newitt, vaccination officer, said the defendant received the usual notice at the time of the child's registration, and three subsequent notices had been sent by post. Witness had received no certificate, nor was he aware that the child had been taken to any doctor. Defendant said the child was variable in health, being hardly two days alike. The Bench made an order for the child to be vaccinated in a month, and the defendant to pay the costs, 8s.

174 22 March 1890

RUGBY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

STARVING A DONKEY TO DEATH **John Renshaw**, boatman, Stretton-under-Fosse, was charged with ill treating a donkey by keeping it without food, at Stretton-under-Fosse on February 14th and several successive days. Defendant pleaded not guilty. William Salisbury, Stretton-under-Fosse, stated that on the 13th February he was on the Fosse Road when he saw a donkey in a field called "Poor's Place". He went to the donkey, which had a rope round its neck, the end of which was fastened to the hedge. A week afterwards, he saw the animal lying down, and on going to it, found that it was dead. In reply to Mr Jones (Inspector of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), he said that when he first saw the donkey, it was in an emaciated condition, and was on the allotment of the defendant. On the 6th March, he went with Sergeant Moore and helped to get the donkey out of a hole where it had been buried. It was examined, but no food was found in its stomach. Harry Hoble, a boy living at Stretton-under-Fosse, said that he saw the donkey the day before it died, and noticed that it was in a very bad condition and had a wound on its shoulder. It was tied to the hedge, but had neither food nor water. David Jones deposed that on the 6th inst he went, in company with PS Moore, to the allotments where the donkey was buried. The animal was taken out of the ground, and was found to be in a miserably poor condition. The animal was a young one, and subsequent examination proved that it was healthy and died for want of food. He produced cuttings from the hedge to which the animal was tethered, and from which it had eaten the bark, being unable to get anything else. PS Moore gave corroborative evidence as to the state in which the donkey was found, and added that when he served the summons on the defendant, he said the donkey had not died of starvation, and could not have eaten any food had there been any there for it. In defence, the defendant said that the donkey got into the canal some time ago and had not been right since. He had got nowhere else to put the animal, so tethered it on his allotment. He (the defendant) was taken ill and did not get out for some days, after which he took the animal some corn and water, but it would not take it. He was again unable to get out of doors for some days, but eventually got down to Mr Wright's and obtained permission to put the donkey in his field, but when he went to remove it, it was dead. It was a great misfortune to him to lose the donkey as it was his only means of getting a living. The Bench considered it to be a most horrible case of

brutality, and fined the defendant £3 and the costs £1 14s 6d, and in default committed him to prison for one month with hard labour.

175 12 April 1890

BRAUNSTON

INQUEST On Wednesday last week, an inquiry was held at the Ship Inn, Braunston Wharf, by W Terry Esq, coroner, into the death of **Florence Eliza Smith**, aged two months, daughter of **Emmanuel Smith jun**, boatman, who was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning. Mr T Dunn was chosen foreman of the jury. The mother of the deceased being too unwell to attend, the father was the first witness called. He said the child slept in the same bed as himself and wife, and all three retired to rest about half past ten on Monday night. The child did not sleep between them, but on the other side. They were not in any way disturbed by the child during the night. As soon as his wife woke on Tuesday morning, she said, "Oh dear, the child is dead", and she sent him out at once for someone. He fetched Mrs Steane, a neighbour. It had never been a troublesome child. He noticed that the right side of the face was a little discoloured. Mrs Steane and Mrs Archer, neighbours, who went to the house, gave evidence as to seeing the child in its mother's arms dead, and the latter witness said she brought the body downstairs, and the father sent for a doctor. Mrs Smith was a very good mother to her children, and witness did not think she ever gave the child any medicine since its birth. Mr C Bennett, surgeon, Braunston, stated that he saw the child about eight o'clock on Tuesday morning. He did not see any marks of violence, but it was not so plump and fat as some children. On making a *post mortem* examination, he found perforation of the stomach, also acute congestion of the vessels and inflammation of the coats of the stomach and intestines. The cause of death would be shock to the system. The perforation would arise probably from some small ulcer. The child was not very well nourished, and probably that was caused by it being weakly at birth. A verdict was returned in accordance with the medical testimony, viz, "Death from natural causes".

176 26 April 1890

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, APRIL 23

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **John Kent**, boatman, Boxmoor, was charged with cruelty to a horse by working it while in an unfit state. PS Thomas said he was with PC Chapman at Buckby Wharf about 2.30 pm on the 4th April, when he saw a horse drawing two boats with 56 tons of coal. He noticed that the horse flinched, and on lifting the collar, he found four raw wounds on the off shoulder, about an inch in diameter, and on the near shoulder there was one wound, about one and a half inches wide. Blacklead had been used. The wounds were much inflamed, and seemed to be very painful. Witness called the attention of Kent to the condition of the horse. He said the wounds had been made that day, and denied that blacklead had been used. The horse was in a low condition, and was the property of the defendant. PC Chapman corroborated the former witness. The defendant did not appear. A fine of 20s and costs 10s 6d was inflicted. Allowed a fortnight to pay.

177 3 May 1890

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, APRIL 30

ASSAULT **Charles Jacks**, boatman, was summoned for assaulting Francis Clay at Braunston on the 9th April. The prosecutors were the Grand Junction Canal Company, for whom Mr Roche appeared. The defendant did not answer to his summons, and a warrant was ordered to be issued.

178 14 June 1890

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JUNE 11

KEEPING A DOG WITHOUT A LICENCE **John Kendall**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with keeping a dog without a licence. Defendant did not appear, and the case was heard in his absence. The defendant, however, sent a representative, who was ready to admit the offence and

pay the expenses. PC Chapman proved the charge. Fined 5s and costs 9s 6d.

179 14 June 1890

LIFE ON A CANAL BOAT At the Coventry Division Sessions on Friday last week, **John Thompson**, boatman, Buckby, Northamptonshire, was summoned by W E Thomas, Inspector of canal boats, Foleshill, for an infringement of the Public Health Act at Wyken on May 29th. The defendant did not appear, and a letter from him was read explaining the circumstances. Mr Thomas said he visited a branch of the Oxford Canal at Wyken, and found a canal boat named the *Sarah Ann*, registered at Daventry No 64. The after cabin was used as a sleeping place for man and wife and a girl aged 16, the statutory age allowed being 12 years. The defendant had been previously cautioned in December last. He was ordered to pay costs 14s and comply with the statute.

180 28 June 1890

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, JUNE 25

KEEPING A DOG WITHOUT A LICENCE **Jos Garner**, boatman, Braunston, was summoned for keeping a dog without a licence at Braunston. PC Chapman said he was on duty near the canal on the morning of the 16th at three o'clock, when he heard a dog bark on a boat. He kept in sight of the boat some time, and then saw the defendant, whom he asked if he had a licence for the dog. The defendant said, "There is no dog here". The defendant went in for about five minutes, and then looked out, and witness said, "There is a dog here, and have you a licence?" The defendant then threw the dog, a white fox terrier, on the side of the canal, saying, "It is not mine; I will not keep it. I saw it straying yesterday at Long Buckby". Witness tried to drive the dog away, but it would not leave the boat. Witness had made enquiry, but could hear nothing to confirm the story of it straying at Long Buckby. The defendant denied that the dog belonged to him. He was informed that as the animal was found in his possession, it was for him to explain how it came there, or he must be deemed to be the owner of the dog. Fined 10s and costs 9s 6d.

181 19 July 1890

It is a generally accepted truism in naval warfare that wood is no match for steam, but given a heavily laden barge and a steam tug in a dark narrow tunnel on the canal, the odds are in favour of the more cumbersome vessel. This was proved to be the case in a charge which came before the Daventry magistrates on Wednesday, and which reminds one of the thrilling story in the penny dreadful, where the gallant powder monkey, to save his ship and destroy the enemy in one fell swoop, attacks the powder magazine with a red hot poker. A boatman hailing from the potteries was in a hurry to get through the Braunston tunnel, but by some means his boat was not attached to the others which were being towed through by the Canal Company's tug. When the latter returned with another line of boats, it was boarded in mid tunnel by the irate boatman, who grappled with the tug, and with his own boat blocked the way; and being master of the situation kept the unfortunate navigators and himself imprisoned in a dense smoke, which was nearly suffocating, for forty minutes. He was then induced to give quarter, and in sheering off, threatened the vanquished commander of the tug with a piece of wood, but unlike every bullet, it did not have its "billet", and a judicious "duck", not in the water but in the cabin, enabled the engineer to avoid the blow. But fighting cocks always lose feathers, and the modern Nelson had to pay one shilling and costs for his victory.

182 1 November 1890

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY **Charles Hoare**, Lower Cherwell Street, Banbury, boatman, was summoned for this offence at Napton on the 1st ult. Defendant, who had since met with an accident, did not appear, and the case not being of a violent nature was dismissed on payment of 7s costs. The money was paid by a friend.

183 15 November 1890

LONG ITCHINGTON

DROWNED IN THE CANAL On Friday evening of last week, about six o'clock, as a steam boat owned by Messrs Fellows, Morton and Co of Wolverhampton was proceeding up the canal near the locks, the captain, a man named **Smith**, whose home was at Birmingham, by some means fell into the water below the locks, and before assistance could be rendered he was drowned. A boat was attached to the steamer, and the man in charge, **Thomas Barnett**, hearing a shout of "Charley", called to Smith's mate and said he thought Smith was in the canal. With all possible dispatch they obtained ropes and proceeded to his assistance, but in the darkness they were unable at once to rescue him. When, eventually, he was got to the bank, the men, assisted by **Mr Thomas Flowers**, strove to restore animation, but in vain, and the body was removed to Mr Flowers's stables, there to await an inquest. The inquest was held by Dr Wynter on Monday, Mr Richard Hammond being foreman of the jury. Evidence was given by Thomas Barnett, who detailed the attempt to rescue the deceased ; and by **Charles Holive**, a boatman on the steamer. The latter was unable to throw any light on how the deceased got into the water, but said he was perfectly sober at the time. The Coroner having summed up, a verdict of "Found drowned" was returned. The deceased, who had been employed by the same firm for over 16 years, was of steady habits and was respected by his employers and the men with whom he worked. He leaves a widow and seven children.

184 29 November 1890

DAVENTRY COUNTY MAGISTRACY, NOVEMBER 22

ASSAULT **John Stevens**, boatman, was charged with assaulting his wife, **Emma Stevens**, at Braunston on the 19th. Complainant said she had been married eleven years, and had three children. Her husband was in charge of a boat for Graves and Co. At Braunston they quarrelled about the shoeing of a horse. She was steering, and the defendant threw a stone at her. He hit her with his fists, and struck her with a mopstick. He was sober. Fined 10s and costs £1 0s 11d, and bound over in £10 to keep the peace for three calendar months.

185 7 February 1891

BRAUNSTON

FOUND DROWNED On Wednesday in last week, as the ice boat was returning from Hillmorton after breaking the ice, the men in charge discovered the body of a man floating in the canal. The body was pulled out, and was found to be very much decomposed, having been in the water a considerable time. An inquest was held at the Castle Inn on Thursday before Mr W Terry, coroner, of Northampton. Mr J Hancock was chosen foreman of the jury. **Joseph Pearsall**, boatman , having given evidence as to seeing the body in the water, **Thomas Henry Coape**, wharfinger, stated that when the body was got out, it had evidently been in the water a long time, two months or more. The features were quite undistinguishable, and much decomposed. He had not heard of anyone being missing, but about two months ago he found an old pilot coat rolled up under the hedge on the towing path, opposite where the body was found. Mr Robinson, surgeon, said he had examined the body, and found it very much decomposed. There was an incised wound over the left eyebrow about two and a half inches long, extending down the cheek, and blood was slightly discharging. He should say it had been caused since the body had been in the water, and did not have anything to do with the cause of death. It might have been done by the ice or boats, or when being dragged out. There was nothing to make him believe that death was from any other cause than drowning. He should say deceased was past middle age. PC Chapman said the body was dressed in a black diagonal cloth coat with breast and side pockets, two dark cloth waistcoats, grey tweed trousers with narrow black stripe, red and white neckerchief tied in a sailor's knot, calico shirt, blue worsted socks hand knit, rather heavy rivetted boots, nailed, the left boot cut from the laceholes to the toes. He found an old handkerchief in each side pocket of the coat, and in the right hand trousers pocket a sixpence, two penny pieces and three buttons. No hat was found, and the clothes were old. Deceased was about 5 ft 5 in or 6 in in height, medium build, about three or four weeks' growth of

beard, and hair turning grey, which was completely covered with mud. He should say, from the clothes, that it was a tramp. He had made enquiry, and had not heard of anyone being missing. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

186 28 February 1891

RUGBY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

SETTING FIRE TO A RICK **Samuel Barrell** (11), a boat boy, was charged with setting fire to a rick of straw, the property of Charles Freeman, farmer, Clifton, on February 22nd. Mr E C Peagam, representing the Rugby and Dunchurch Agricultural Association, appeared for the prosecutor. He said that the stack of straw was in a field adjoining the canal at Clifton, and it was set fire to on Sunday morning about 8.30. A policeman followed the boat along towards Flecknoe, when the boy admitted the offence, and his uncle, with whom he worked, said he saw him leaving the rick. PC Hayes said he received information about 9 o'clock that some straw had been burned, and proceeding along the towing path he came up with the boat at Flecknoe about three in the afternoon. The defendant first said he did not set fire to the straw, and had no matches. Witness searched him, and found some matches. The boy's uncle told him to tell the truth, and he then admitted that he did set fire to the straw, but only used one match. The uncle told witness that he saw the boy coming from the direction of the rick. **John Knight**, boatman, Banbury, the defendant's uncle, said the boy left the boat at Clifton, and afterwards witness saw him following along behind. Witness did not see any straw, nor did he see the fire. When the policeman came up with them at Flecknoe, he was too far away to hear the boy's replies to the officer's questions. Defendant pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to receive six strokes with a birch rod.

187 28 March 1891

NAPTON

DROWNED IN THE CANAL On Thursday evening last week, a boatwoman named **Elizabeth Humphries** was drowned in the Oxford Canal between Napton and Shuckborough. The body was taken to the New Inn to await an inquest, which was held on Monday by Dr Wynter. **Daniel Humphries**, a boatman living at Ensham in Oxfordshire, identified the body as that of his wife, who was 58 years old. On Thursday the 19th inst, he was in a boat on the Oxford Canal between Napton and Shuckborough, and his wife was in another boat behind, the two being attached to each other. Witness was steering the first boat, his wife was steering the second, and a man named **Abel Lamsden** was with the horses. When he had gone about a hundred yards, he noticed the second boat running into the bank. He jumped off and ran back, and said, "Where are you?" but got no answer. He told Abel to run and get the shaft. Witness saw a shawl floating on the water, and when Abel brought the shaft, witness put it close to where the shawl was and drew deceased to the side, and got her out. She was quite dead. He had known her to turn giddy, but never to fall. She was sober, and he could not account for her falling out of the boat. She was nearly in the middle of the canal, and he did not hear her cry out. Abel Lamsden, boatman, gave corroborative evidence. PC Emberton gave evidence as to taking charge of the body, and said that he knew Humphries and his wife were quiet and respectable people. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned. The deceased was interred in the Napton Cemetery on Monday evening.

188 2 May 1891

RUGBY RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY The Inspector reported that **Samuel Gibbons**, boatman, Banbury, refused to allow him to properly inspect his boat on the 14th inst. The Inspector was authorised to prosecute Gibbons.

189 9 May 1891

BRAUNSTON

SUDDEN DEATH On Wednesday in last week, a boatman named **William Hewins**, in the employ of Mr W A Judkins of Nuneaton, while passing along the canal suddenly fell down dead on board

his boat. The county coroner was communicated with, but did not deem an inquest necessary, as the deceased has been attended by a doctor for heart disease for some time previously to his death.

190 30 May 1891

RUGBY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

A WARNING TO BOATMEN **Samuel Gibbons**, a boatman, was summoned by V W H Redfern, inspector to the Rugby Rural Sanitary Authority, for obstructing him while in the execution of his duty as inspector under the Canal Boats Act 1877, at Hillmorton on April 14th. Defendant pleaded not guilty. The prosecutor said the defendant's wife was steering the boat, and handed the certificate to him. He said he would get on the boat and inspect the cabin, and the defendant's wife said he should not go beyond the hatchway. He asked the defendant to pull the boat to the side in order that he might go into the cabin, but the defendant refused to allow him to go further than the hatchway. The Bench told the defendant he was liable to a penalty of £2, but they would fine him only £1 and costs 17s 6d.

191 4 July 1891

DAVENTRY DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS, JULY 1

SCHOOL CASE **William Griffin**, boatman, was fined 5s for not sending three children to school. They had not attended for two years.

192 4 July 1891

ALLEGED SERIOUS ASSAULT BY A BOATMAN AT BRAUNSTON At the County Police Court at Daventry on Monday, before Captain Stopford, **Frederick Richard Earle**, boatman, Braunston, was charged with unlawfully and maliciously wounding **Alfred Barrington** with intent to do bodily harm. Mr Roche appeared for the defendant. Prosecutor said his home was at Stoke Prior, Worcestershire, and since Easter last he had been in the employ of the prisoner, who was captain of a boat and steamer named *Honesty* and *Antelope*. On Friday last, prisoner discharged prosecutor at Harefield. Prisoner's wife had travelled with the boat, and she joined prosecutor at Boxmoor. Prisoner's wife, her mother, and prosecutor went by train from Boxmoor to Berkhamstead, where prosecutor met prisoner's boat to get his things, the women waiting while he went. The wife's mother then returned to Boxmoor, and the wife and prosecutor went by train to Daventry and on to Braunston, where prisoner had a house. They arrived at Braunston about 7.30, going to bed about 11.30. They slept together. About two o'clock on Sunday morning, the 28th, prosecutor was awakened by the screams of his bedfellow, and he heard her say, "What are you going to do?" On turning over, he saw the prisoner standing over him with a knife in his hand. Prisoner made no reply to his wife, but said to prosecutor, "Alf, I have catched you this time, and I am going to kill you". Prisoner struck at him, and he raised his hand to ward off the blow, when the knife caught his right hand and produced a considerable wound. Prosecutor tried to lay hold of prisoner's wrist, but missed it and grasped the blade instead, and thus a second wound was produced. This was on the right hand. He received a second cut on the right hand, but could not tell how that was produced. Prisoner then left the room to prevent his wife going out of the door. The wife's sister, who slept in an adjoining room, asked the prisoner to let prosecutor leave the room. Prisoner said he would never go away from the room till he was carried down dead. Prisoner's wife asked him to let her go downstairs. He refused at first, and told her if she did not hold her tongue he would give her something of the same sort. Prisoner ran round the bedroom twice, but did not again lay hands on the prosecutor. He said to prosecutor, "Get a knife and let us have stick for stick, and see who is the best man ; or otherwise I will fight you". Prosecutor declined to do either. Prisoner went downstairs, telling prosecutor if he went down he would kill him. Prosecutor lost a good deal of blood, evidence of which was seen on a shirt and bedclothes produced. His wounds were attended to by Mr Masson. In cross-examination by Mr Roche, prosecutor said there had been previous complaints about the intimacy between him and prisoner's wife. He had some of her clothes in his bag, and he locked the bag up in the cabin of the steamer.

The prisoner burst the cupboard open, found his wife's clothes, and discharged the prosecutor. Prosecutor heard the prisoner say to a man outside the house, that he had got the prisoner (*sic*) upstairs, and he had just cut him to prove that he was there. Prosecutor heard the prisoner sharpen the knife on the doorstep, and heard him say he had a good mind to do for him. **Charlotte Jane Garner**, aged 19, said she lived with her mother, who occupied the same house as the prisoner, each paying half the rent. Her mother went out with a boat, and witness and a younger sister had charge of the house. Prisoner's wife was an elder sister. She and the prosecutor arrived at Braunston on Saturday night. They slept in the same bedroom, and witness and her younger sister slept in an adjoining room. Her sister's screams awoke witness on Sunday morning. She got up, and saw the prisoner in the room with a knife in his hand. He asked her to go in, but she refused. She asked him to let Alf go out of the room, but he said "not till he is dead, and carried out". Witness went with prisoner's wife to fetch the police. Police-constable Springthorpe said he was called to the prisoner's house about 2.45 on Sunday morning. He asked the prisoner what was the matter, and he said he had found Alfred Barrington in bed with his wife, and he had marked him as he intended to do to show that he was there. Witness asked what he did it with. He replied, "With a knife", and he gave the knife up to witness, saying, "That is what I did it with. I have cleaned and sharpened it since I used it. I intended to do what I have done". Witness went upstairs, and found Barrington sitting on a box with his trousers on, and his hands and arms covered with blood. Prisoner was present, and when Barrington said "he did it with a knife", prisoner said, "Yes, and I meant to do it ; I meant to mark you". Witness produced a blanket, a sheet, two pillow slips and a counterpane, all stained with blood, and he said the bed was saturated with blood. Witness arrested the prisoner and took him to Daventry. W H Masson, surgeon, described the wounds, which were partly incised and partly lacerated. He did not apprehend any danger from them. The prisoner, who reserved his defence, was committed for trial at the Assizes.

The prisoner was indicted at the Northampton Assizes on Wednesday. Mr Chambers then made a powerful plea for the prisoner. Under the circumstances, he submitted the offence was so slight that it was really no offence at all. The circumstances were so fearfully provocative that probably no husband in England would have done otherwise than the prisoner did. (Applause). Mr Chambers pleaded for the fullest leniency the law allowed. His Lordship said he felt the force of Mr Chambers' plea. Prisoner was subject to the grossest possible provocation. It was not in human nature to restrain oneself with such provocation, and it would not be creditable to human nature had prisoner endured the provocation without being roused. Although his Lordship was not surprised at prisoner's conduct, it was legally unjustifiable. Had the prosecutor been killed, prisoner would have been responsible for his death, although the provocation might have reduced the conviction to manslaughter. The depositions, however, seemed to show that prisoner only desired to mark the prosecutor, so as to make him abstain from repeating his offence. It was possible the provocation might be renewed in future, although his Lordship hoped not. (Prisoner : "I hope not".) His Lordship wanted to place the prisoner in the best position to resist that possible provocation. He therefore bound him over in the sum of £20 to come up for judgement if called upon, and to keep the peace towards Barrington. Prisoner : Thanks, my lord.

193 11 July 1891

DAVENTRY DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS, JULY 8

KEEPING DOGS WITHOUT LICENCES **William Chater**, boatman, Tusses Bridge, Warwickshire, was fined 5s and 16s 3d costs for keeping a dog without a licence at Long Buckby on the 9th June. PS Thomas proved the charge.

194 21 November 1891

DAVENTRY PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 18

THE RABIES ORDER Duncan Ferguson, groom, who did not appear, was fined 5s and costs 9s 6d for a breach of rabies order, James Wise, farm servant, Boddington, was fined 2s 6d and costs 11s, and **Joseph Shires**, a boatman of Bedworth, was, in his absence, fined 5s and costs 9s 6d.

195 12 December 1891

SAD DROWNING FATALITY AT NAPTON Dr D R Wynter, the coroner for Central Warwickshire, held an inquest at the Bull and Butcher Inn, Napton Folly, on Monday afternoon, on the body of **Andrew Godfrey**, aged 16, a native of Leicester, who was found drowned in the canal on Friday morning of last week under somewhat suspicious circumstances. The following was the evidence given :-

Caroline Grimsby, wife of Francis Grimsby, warehouseman, Leicester, stated that the deceased was 16 years of age. He was a boat boy, and was her nephew. She last saw him alive about eight weeks ago. He was then at Leicester at her house. Neither his father nor mother were living. He told her he was going to Hinckley to look for work. He seemed in good health and spirits. Witness never saw him again alive. On Saturday, she received a letter from the police officer informing her of his being drowned. When he left her house, she gave him two postcards directed to herself, and wished him to send one when he had work. Witness never knew but that he was still at Hinckley until the present time. He sent one of the postcards she gave him about three or four days after he left, to say that he had both work and lodgings. The other postcard was found in his pocket after the body had been taken out of the water. The postcard she received was dated from Hinckley.

William Smith, aged apparently about 21, stated that he was a boatman and lived at Newbold. He saw the deceased at "The Wood" near Nuneaton, and set him on. It was on a Monday nearly three weeks ago. Deceased wanted a job, and witness said he might go with him. Since then they had gone various journeys, and the boy had been with him all the time. On Thursday night, they were coming down the canal at Napton towards the Bull and Butcher. When they came out of the second lock, deceased was steering. On coming into the second lock, witness told him to close the lock gate and then go and get the bottom lock ready. On arriving at the latter, witness opened the gate and started the horse, and came down the pound gently. Deceased had not got the lock ready. Just before witness got through this lock, he shouted out to the deceased, "How is it?" but no answer came, so he ran to the lock and hulloaed "Andrew" twice, and then began to shut the bottom gates. Not receiving an answer and being unable to see him anywhere, witness put the horse in the stable and opened the gates, and seeing **George Eadon**, the lock-keeper, coming down, asked him if he had seen his "chap" anywhere. Eadon said he had not. Witness said, "He must have run away then ; he ran away from me at Banbury". Witness slept in the boat that night, and thought about starting next morning, and expected to see deceased in Nuneaton when he got there, but something struck him to "feel" in the lock before he started ; or else he never thought nothing about the lad being in the "cut" the night before. Eadon said he would help him, and fetched the drag. Eadon found the body three parts down the lock, and they filled the lock to raise him up to the top, and get him out. Deceased had a windlass to undo the lock with when he left witness, and they afterwards found the windlass in the lock. Witness and deceased had been good friends. Deceased seemed very well, and in pretty good spirits. Witness never thought he would commit suicide, in fact he seemed all right. In answer to the Coroner, witness said it did not strike him to look in the lock the night before, as deceased had not done anything towards getting the lock ready.

Mr Sheasby : What made this young man run away from you at Banbury? - Witness : We had a few words at these locks before. That's what he said it was for. He ran away, and took his clothes with him. I fetched him back. Mr Shepherd : About what time would it be when he got into the water? - Witness : It would be about seven o'clock, and it was very dark. The Coroner : Where did you find him when he ran away from you at Banbury? - Witness : I found him in another man's cabin. The boat belonged to Taylors of Hartshill. We never had any words or any falling out. I only told him to be quick. We had no quarrel when we came to these locks.

Mr Sheasby : How long had he been steering the boat before he came to the second lock? - Witness : He had been steering nearly all the way from Banbury. In answer to a further question, witness said deceased was perfectly sober, and had only had his tea just above the locks.

George Eadon was subsequently called, and gave corroborative evidence. When Smith missed the lad at the bottom lock, he said to witness that he thought he must have run away again, as he did not shut a gate or drop a paddle. Witness asked Smith if he thought he was in the canal, but he said he

should think not. Smith did not say anything more about it at the time, but the next morning, as he came to fetch the horse out of the stable, he said to witness that he should like to feel if he could find him anywhere in the canal. Witness asked him if he thought he was in the canal. He said he did not know. Witness told Smith he would get the drag at once. He did so, and found the body as described. The Coroner : When you asked Smith if he thought deceased was in the lock, did he look at all confused? - Witness : No, Smith did not look confused. He looked as if the boy had run away from him again.

PC Emberton, stationed at Napton, stated that when he examined the body, he found no marks of violence except one on the head. Witness then searched deceased, and found a patent money box to hold sixpences in his pocket. He also saw Smith, but noticed nothing particular about his appearance. He spoke to witness fairly and straightforwardly. Witness asked if they had any "row". Smith replied that he had words with the deceased, and boxed his ears once. He did not seem upset. This concluded the evidence.

The Coroner, in addressing the jury, said the present case was a case quite deserving of very strict enquiry. They had heard the evidence of Smith, which they might believe or not believe as they chose. Eadon, however, whose evidence he was sure the jury did not doubt, also corroborated the evidence of Smith, and told the same tale of the affair. With respect to the one mark of violence on the head, he had himself examined it, and as a medical man, was not of opinion that the wound was inflicted by anyone else. His theory of the case was that deceased, in tumbling in the lock, must have struck his head. There was no evidence, however, to show how the boy got into the water, and it would be therefore best to return an open verdict. A verdict of "Found drowned" was accordingly returned by the jury.

The foreman said they had had accidents at the locks at various times, and he thought the Canal Company ought to find lights to light every lock on the canal. They were as necessary there as at a railway station. Mr Neal, however, on the other hand, thought the boatmen would object to lights, as they would dazzle them more than enough. There were lights at Hillmorton, and they were very much disliked, and he thought more accidents would occur through having them than without them. On this point, the opinions of the jury differed considerably. The Coroner said he did not see what could be done in the matter then, but no doubt the Press would make a note of the discussion.

196 2 January 1892

MAGISTERIAL, WEDNESDAY

DRUNKENNESS A boatman hailing from Oldbury and giving the name of **Thomas Bedford** was charged with being drunk at Rugby on the previous day. He admitted that he had had some beer, but denied that he was drunk. PS Willett said the defendant went into a butcher's shop in the Shambles, and taking up a large knife threatened to cut his throat. When the officer asked him why he did that, he said he thought the butcher would give him some meat to get rid of him. He continued to threaten to cut his throat, and for his own safety the police officer locked him up. On defendant promising to sign the pledge and make an effort to live a more respectable life, he was discharged.

197 16 January 1892

RUGBY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE **Henry West**, boatman, Hillmorton, was charged with neglecting to send his son **Albert**, aged 12, to school. The boy had not attended school since the 26th last July. The mother said the father had taken him boating, as he was of great assistance to him. Fined 5s.

198 2 April 1892

DAVENTRY DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS, MARCH 30

SCHOOL CASE **John Sanders**, boatman, Stockton, Warwickshire, was fined 5s for the non-attendance of his son at school.

199 28 May 1892

BOATMAN wanted, a steady reliable man as BOAT STEERER ; one who can find his own horse preferred. **Frederick Sutton**, Stretton-under-Fosse Wharf.

200 3 September 1892

ATHERSTONE

CHARGE OF SHOOTING At the Atherstone Petty Sessions on Tuesday, **William Johnson**, boatman, no fixed abode, was charged with shooting Joseph Harding at Polesworth on the 17th. Mr Payne (Hanley) defended. It appeared from the evidence that complainant, together with others, was on a canal bridge at Polesworth, and while walking down he stopped to speak to a man, when he received several shots in his right hand. Complainant had no wish to press the case, and was of opinion that it was done unintentionally. Defendant said he was interfered with by several men, who continually shouted to his horse to stop, and after this had gone on for some time he told the men that if they did not desist he would "shift" them. As this injunction was unheeded, he fetched the gun from the cabin of the boat and fired at the bridge with the object of frightening them. He did not fire at the men. The Bench committed defendant to the quarter sessions, bail being accepted, himself in £20 and two sureties of £10 each.

201 5 November 1892

DAVENTRY DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 2

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY **Samuel Smith**, a boatman, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Whilton Locks on the 21st October. PS Thomas proved the charge. Fined 2s 6d and costs 7s, or seven days with hard labour.

KEEPING A DOG WITHOUT A LICENCE **William Batterson**, a boatman, was, in his absence, found guilty of keeping a dog without a licence. Fined 1s and costs 7s.

202 12 November 1892

MR GEORGE SMITH OF COALVILLE AND THE LABOUR COMMISSION The Labour Commission sat again last week, and received evidence by railway and tramway employees, by servants of the London General Omnibus Company, by Mr George Smith of Coalville – as to the condition of the floating canal population – and others.

Mr George Smith of Coalville was examined, and said that he had taken great interest in the condition of the floating population on canals, and had had a good deal to do with the promotion of the Canal Boats Acts of 1877 and 1884, and had written largely on the subject. With regard to the employment of children on canal boats, he pointed out that children were not allowed to be employed at other occupations until they had passed a prescribed standard of education ; but the canal children were to all appearance to be left in ignorance and slavery. While the children of other working classes were brought under educational influences, the canal children were to be left in the gutter. He advocated the appointment of Government inspectors who should work in conjunction with the sanitary authorities, and that these should look out at the locks for boats that had children on board who had not attended school. He urged that a boat cabin was not a suitable home for a man and his wife and children, and in objecting to the employment of women on canal boats, he said the men were always better and steadier without the women than they were with them. The work which some of the children, in some cases only mere babies, had to perform in driving the horses, loading and unloading the boats, winding the lock paddles, apart from the long hours, was far too heavy for children ; and he had known cases where they had been maimed for life in trying to wind the lock paddles. If children were not allowed to work on the canal boats until they had passed the usual standards of education, or until they had arrived at the age children had to attain before being allowed to work in other employments, the difficulties surrounding their education would easily vanish. The employment of little children on canal boats had a most demoralising effect upon canal boat life and traffic. Boating parents given to drinking habits often entrusted the working of their boats to the children, while they stayed behind at the public houses.

With the lessening of child labour on canal boats, as had been the case with the lessening of child labour in all other industries, the canal boatman would enter upon a higher moral and social level. In his Canal Boats Act Amendment Bill of 1881, he inserted the following clause to prohibit child labour on canal boats :- “A child under 13 years of age should not be employed in or for the purposes of a canal boat unless he or she has obtained from a person authorised by the Education Department a certificate of having attained the third standard as defined by the code of minutes of the Education Department in force at the passing of this Act, or such other standard as may be from time to time fixed for the purposes of this Act by the Local Government Board with the consent of the Education Department”. That clause was struck out from the bill by the Select Committee in 1884 under pressure from the Canal Association and some leading canal proprietors, and those education clauses which were inserted in the Act of 1884 had not been enforced as they should have been. Sunday labour was another great evil in connection with canal work. Many canal boat owners forbade their boatmen to work on Sundays, and arranged their traffic so that there was no need for the Sunday work ; but boatmen who had spent a day or two at the public house on the journey would work on Sundays in order to make up for lost time. From 30 to 40 boats, chiefly laden with heavy goods such as coal, iron, bricks, stone, &c, passed through Hillmorton Locks on the Oxford Canal every Sunday, and a similar number through the Welton Tunnel on the Grand Junction Canal. The Sunday work of boaters had not only a most demoralising effect upon themselves, but its evil influences were felt and seen in the towns and villages adjacent to the canal. The agencies needed to put an end to Sunday trading on canals were – first, unity on the part of the boatmen, boat owners and canal proprietors ; second, the passing of a law to prohibit the employment of children and young persons ; and third, that the canal proprietors should close their locks on Sundays from 6 am to 6 pm.

The Commission then adjourned.

203 24 December 1892

DAVENTRY DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS, DECEMBER 25

DESERTING FAMILY **Samuel Smith**, boatman, was charged with leaving his two daughters chargeable to the Daventry Union. The defendant is a widower, and left his children in the care of a Mrs Gardner at Buckby Wharf. He failed to pay for their maintenance, and she placed them in the Union, in consequence of which expenses amounting to 18s 6d have been incurred. Defendant made a statement to the Bench, upon which he was allowed to take the children out of the house, and promising to remit £1 3s 8d in a month, the case was adjourned for a month.

204 15 April 1893

RUGBY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

CRUELTY TO A DONKEY **Alfred Richard Taylor**, boatman, was charged with ill-treating a donkey by working it while in an unfit state on the towing path at Brownsover on April 9th. PC Marks saw defendant working the donkey, and seeing that it appeared to be in pain, he examined it and found sores on it. The magistrates saw the donkey, and defendant then said in defence that he was not aware the wounds were so bad. He asked the Bench for leniency, but Mr Wood said he did not think it was a case for much leniency. The donkey was sore all over, and if it was not for the police there was no knowing what barbarity would go forward on the canal. How boatmen could be so utterly devoid of all feeling as to work horses and donkeys with sore shoulders he did not know. Defendant was fined £1, including costs.

205 6 May 1893

DAVENTRY DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS, MAY 3

KEEPING A DOG WITHOUT A LICENCE **Richard Hall**, boatman, was charged with keeping a dog without a licence at Buckby Wharf on the 7th April. PS Thomas proved the charge, which the defendant admitted by letter. Fined 7s 6d and costs 6s, or 7 days. Allowed a week.

206 26 August 1893

RUGBY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

ALLEGED CRUELTY TO A HORSE **John Storer**, boatman, Hartshill, was summoned for cruelty to a horse by working it while in an unfit state at Easenhall on August 21st. Defendant pleaded guilty. PS Borton said he saw the horse drawing an empty boat. The horse was pinched, and defendant knew of it, but he said he was anxious to get home so that he could turn it up. The magistrates saw the horse, and adjourned the case for a week.

207 2 September 1893

RUGBY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **John Storer**, boatman, Hartshill, was summoned for working a horse while in an unfit state at Easenhall on August 21st. Defendant pleaded guilty. The case was adjourned from the last Court, and defendant undertook to leave the horse at Easenhall, but Sergeant Borton said he took it on to Foleshill. The sergeant stated that on the day named he saw the defendant's horse drawing an empty boat along the canal. The animal was pinched on both shoulders, on the withers and on the hip. It was an old horse, and was in a dreadful state. Mr Wood said the magistrates saw the horse last week, and a more disgraceful state of things could not be. The horse was badly pinched, and was nothing but skin and bone. He did not ever remember seeing a more wretched animal, and it must have been working in intense pain. It was a shocking thing to treat an animal in the way defendant had, and he would have to pay a fine of £1 and costs 11s 6d.

208 14 October 1893

DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS, OCTOBER 11

CATTLE STRAYING **Walter Webb**, a boatman, was charged with allowing a horse to stray on the road leading from Barby to Braunston. PC Springthorpe proved the charge, and as this was the first charge against the defendant, it was dismissed on payment of costs 3s 6d.

209 25 November 1883

DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 22

KEEPING A DOG WITHOUT A LICENCE **William Leatherland**, boatman, Mountsorrel, was charged with keeping a dog without a licence at Watford on the 6th November. The defendant did not appear, and the case was heard in his absence. PC Chapman proved the charge, and the defendant was fined 10s including costs. Another charge against the same defendant of cruelty to a horse by working it in an unfit state was preferred. PC Chapman proved this offence also, which took place at the same time as the former one. Fined £1 and costs 4s, or in default one month.

210 17 March 1894

DAVENTRY DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS

BREACH OF THE BYE LAWS OF THE OXFORD CANAL COMPANY **Charles Atkins**, boatman, was charged with not having a lighted lamp on his boat as required by the Canal Company's bye laws. **Thomas Edwin Cope**, wharfinger in the employ of the Oxford Canal Company at Braunston, said he saw the defendant, who was the "captain" of a boat laden with eleven tons of gunpowder, without a lighted lamp on his boat as required by the bye laws of the company. Witness told the defendant he must put the light on, or he should report him. It was then 35 minutes past six pm, and he ought to have his light on within an hour after sunset. The defendant said he had no right to carry a light, and he refused to light his lamp, and continued his journey without one. Witness followed him about half a mile, and up to that time he had not lighted the lamp. **James Mawby**, clerk in the company's office at Braunston, said he saw the defendant enter the Oxford Canal from the Grand Junction about 6.35 pm on the 26th February. He had no light burning. Mr Cope went to him and asked him to put his light on. Defendant said he should not as long as he could see 200 yards ahead. The defendant, in defence, said he tried to light his lamp, but the wind, which was blowing half a gale, blew it out. The Chairman told defendant he

was liable to a fine of £20, and his tale of the wind blowing his lamp out would not pass with an old sailor, who knew the lamps could not be blown out. Fined 20s and costs 14s.

211 14 April 1894

DAVENTRY DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS

ASSAULT **William Kidsley**, boatman, Weedon, was charged with assaulting William Sorrell of the same place. Complainant said on the 4th April, in the evening, while he stood talking in the street with two other persons, the defendant came out of his house and challenged any one of the three to fight. None of them were disposed to accept the challenge, and then the defendant directed special attention to witness, saying he made pretension to be a professional gardener, and that he long wanted to give him a good dressing. Witness declined any engagement of the kind. He knew of no cause of quarrel, and he walked away, but defendant followed him and put his fist in witness's face. He did that three times, and he knocked witness's hat off. Defendant said he could not explain his conduct, and he did not know any cause of quarrel. The Bench pointed out to the defendant that such unaccountable conduct could not be allowed, but they thought the ends of justice would be met by his being bound over to keep the peace for six months in a £10 bond and paying the costs, including the expenses of the complainant, 5s 6d. Allowed till Saturday to pay.

212 5 May 1894

RUGBY PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY

THEFTS ON THE RAILWAY William John Whitman of no fixed abode, was charged on remand with stealing a small timepiece, value £7, the property of the London and North Western Railway Company, from a signal box at New Bilton on April 14th. There was a further charge against prisoner of stealing an overcoat, value 25s, from a brake van at Rugby on April 12th. Mr Lambert, having opened the case, called Alfred Jiggles, a signaller in the employ of the railway company and living at 12 Warwick Street, who said he had charge of the New Bilton signal box, in which the timepiece, portions of which were produced, was hanging on the 14th April. On the 16th ult, he went to the signal box and found that the timepiece had been stolen. Charles Austen, wagon examiner, 12 Avon Street, said on the 18th April he saw the prisoner enter a brake van, and going to him asked what he was doing there. He replied that he wanted to see "Bill Lloyd, the brakesman". Witness told him that was not Lloyd's brake. He took prisoner to the brakesman's lodging house and sent for Detective Birch. Harry Birch deposed that when he arrived at the lodging house and asked prisoner his name, he replied that it was William Webster, and that he lived at 46 Queen's Crescent, Camden Town, London. Witness, however, knew prisoner, and while he was searching him, prisoner pulled out of his pocket the works of the timepiece with the key, and admitted that he broke into the New Bilton box on the previous Sunday afternoon and took the timepiece. He said he destroyed the other parts and threw them into the canal. Prisoner, after the usual caution, said he did not wish to say anything, and had no witnesses to call.

With regard to the second charge, John Chapman, brakesman, 36 Ormond Street, Birmingham, deposed that he was at Rugby station on the 12th April, in charge of a train from London. At 9.30 pm, he placed his coat with other articles in his van, and about ten o'clock, just as the train had started, he missed his coat, together with his basket, food and other things. **Walter Mallard**, a boatman living near Wolverton, said he was with his boat at Brinklow on the 13th April last. He saw prisoner on the canal bank, and was asked by him if he wanted to buy an overcoat. He asked to be allowed to look at the garment and prisoner, who was wearing it, took it off. Having inspected it, witness gave prisoner 5s for it, and subsequently handed it to a detective. Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the next Quarter Sessions at Warwick.

213 19 May 1894

DAVENTRY DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS, MAY 16

KEEPING A DOG WITHOUT A LICENCE **George Bennett**, boatman, Hawkesbury, was charged with keeping a dog without a licence. Sergeant Thomas proved the case. Fined 7s 6d and costs 6s.

214 29 September 1894

DAVENTRY DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS, SEPTEMBER 26

KEEPING A DOG WITHOUT A LICENCE **Richard Humphries**, a boatman of no fixed residence, was charged with keeping a dog without a licence at Watford on the 4th September. Sergeant Chapman proved the case. Defendant said he only bought the dog on the 3rd inst, but he could not produce any evidence to show that such was the fact. Fined 10s and costs 6s.

215 13 October 1894

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY

THEFT OF CARROTS A canal boatman giving the name of **Perks** and an address in London was charged with stealing three carrots, value 2d, the property of John Grendon, farmer, Calcutt, on Saturday morning. It appeared that the prosecutor had a field of carrots near the canal and from time to time had missed some. The police were instructed to keep a watch on the field, and about six o'clock in the morning in question, PCs Duncuff and Stockford, who were concealed on the side of the canal, saw defendant leave his boat and pull up the carrots. The officers went to him, when he asked their forgiveness. Fined 10s and costs 10s 6d.

216 30 March 1895

HUSBANDS BOSWORTH

A CHILD'S DEATH FROM BURNS A child aged two months named **Joseph Pearsall**, son of a boatman of that name of Northampton, died at Husbands Bosworth on Saturday last, from the effects of a burning accident caused by the explosion of a paraffin lamp in the boat at Northampton on the 15th inst. The mother dressed the wounds, and at the time the child appeared to be going on all right. When the boat arrived at Fenny Stratford the mother took the child to a doctor, and he advised her to let another medical man see it at their next stopping place. The child, however, died at Husbands Bosworth at 3 pm on Saturday. An inquest on the body was held at the Union Anchor Inn, Market Bosworth, at 2.30 on Wednesday.

217 25 May 1895

HILLMORTON

BREACH OF THE CANAL BYE LAWS At Towcester Petty Sessions on Tuesday, **Charles Atkins**, boatman, Hillmorton, was summoned for a breach of the canal bye laws in not having a lighted lamp on his boat, which contained gunpowder, between sunset and sunrise, at Stoke Bruerne on May 4th. Defendant said the light went out when he was asleep. PC Beesley, **Hubert Dawson** (a clerk in the employ of the Grand Junction Canal Co), and **George Hinds** (a lock-keeper at Stoke) gave evidence, Mr Dawson stating that the boat was laden with sixteen tons of gunpowder. Defendant said all three of the men on the boat were asleep, and the lamp, which his governor provided, was not a suitable one. Mr Dawson said that one or other of the men ought to have been in charge in order to see to such matters. There was a previous conviction against the defendant for a similar offence near Daventry last year, and the Bench fined him £2 and costs 6s, and cautioned him as to his future conduct, the Chairman adding that defendant's employer should provide him with a proper lamp.

218 22 June 1895

SOUTHAM PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY

TEMPORARY TRANSFER The licence of the Two Boats Inn, Long Itchington, was temporarily transferred from Anthony Rhodes to **Thomas Millard**, formerly of Braunston, boatman.

219 24 August 1895

DAVENTRY DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 21

NEGLECTING TO SUPPORT A MOTHER **William Fall**, boatman, Aylesbury, was summoned to show cause why he should not contribute towards the support of his mother, **Catherine Knight**, of

Braunston. The defendant stated his circumstances to the Bench who, having heard his statement, declined to make an order.