

DERBY MERCURY
1801 to 1844

1 May 21 1801

DERBY MAY 20

A few days since, **John Ordish**, a Boatman of Barrowash in this County, accidentally broke his neck by a fall on board a boat, lying in the Derby Canal near the above place, and expired instantly.

2 November 5 1801

PARDON ASKED AND A CAUTION TO BOATMEN Whereas I, **John Cufflin**, boat master of Leicester, did in the night of the 21st of October instant cut, take and carry away from a boat at Shipley Wharf a rope belonging to Mr Robert Shaw of Sawley in the county of Derby, and by my asking his pardon in this public manner, has kindly stopped all prosecution against me.

His
JOHN CUFLIN
mark

Witness

Paul Brentnall

Joseph Boam

Shipley Wharf, October 22 1801

3 October 7 1802

Some wicked incendiary one night last week put lighted tar ropes into a boat, cotton laden, on the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal, under the warehouse at the lower end of Castle Field, near Manchester. Providentially the boatman was sleeping in the cabin of the boat, and the smell of burning cotton waking him, he instantly removed his boat from under the warehouse, otherwise the consequences might have been dreadful.

4 September 8 1803

On Thursday last, **William Bird**, a boatman aged fifteen years, fell into a lock belonging to the Nutbrook Canal at Stanton by Dale in this county, and was unfortunately drowned.

5 May 16 1805

INQUESTS Last week in the city of Lichfield, on the body of **William Marshall**, a boatman, an entire stranger in that neighbourhood, who had accidentally fallen into a lock in the Wyrley and Essington Canal as he was raising a paddle.

6 February 13 1806

On the 4th instant, **John Calton, John Pegg, John Winfield, Edward Saxton, John Lane, Joseph Pass, George Siddals, Joseph Twells and Robert Tomlinson** (all boatmen), convicted of felony at the last general quarter sessions for this county ; and John Sykes, convicted of stealing stockings at the late borough sessions, were delivered on board the Captivity Hulk at Portsmouth Harbour, until their several sentences of transportation can be carried into execution.

7 January 15 1807

At the Quarter Sessions for this county, **Thomas Glover**, boatman, charged with robbing a canal boat, was permitted to enter into the army without taking his trial.

8 May 7 1812

Committed to the county gaol, **Francis Baker**, boatman to Messrs Dethick, Smith & Company, charged upon the oath of Samuel Turner, with having on the fifteenth day of April last stolen and carried away a quantity of malt from a boat lying upon the canal in the township of Brimington, the

property of the said Messrs Dethick, Smith and Company ; and Thomas Mosley the elder and Thomas Mosley the younger of Whittington, labourers, charged also upon the oath of Samuel Turner, with having on the fifteenth say of April last received the said malt, knowing it to have been stolen.

8 January 21 1813

At the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for this County, held at the County Hall last week, **James Wood, Joseph Turland** and **John Lathbury**, boatmen, for stealing a quantity of gin out of a boat at Chellaston, the property of Messrs Pickfords, their employers ; and William Pegg, for receiving the said gin, knowing the same to have been stolen, were respectively sentenced to seven years transportation.

The Chairman, in passing sentence on Turland, Lathbury, Wood and Pegg observed that the frequency of thefts and pilferages committed by boatmen of liquors and other articles entrusted to their care made it necessary for the better security and protection of such property that a severe example should be made, and therefore that it was the determination of the Magistrates in every instance in which such offenders should be convicted, to Transport them for seven years.

9 March 18 1813

CRICH LIME

GABRIEL BRITAIN respectfully acquaints his friends and the Public that he carries by his boats, CRICH LIME from the Lime Works of the Butterley Company in Codnor Park, and delivers it at the places and for the prices of the understated list for ready money.

From the number of boats he employs in the Lime trade, he hopes to be able to supply all orders with regularity and dispatch ; and that his Friends might not be disappointed, he requests them to give their orders early, and with some latitude in the time of delivery, when it can conveniently be done.

Nottingham Canal

	per quarter	
	s	d
Langley Mill	3	5
Cossal	3	7
Trowel	3	8
Lenton and Nottingham	3	11

Grantham Canal

Cotgrave	4	2
Cropwell, Coulston, Owthorpe and Kinoulton	4	3
Hickling Wharf	4	4
Long Clawson and Hose	4	5
Harby, Hathern, Plungar and Barkstone	4	6
Redmile, Buttesford and Muston (below the locks)	4	7
Woolsthorpe, Casthorpe and Harlaston Bridge	4	9
Grantham	4	11

River Trent

Clifton	4	1
Colwick and Holme Pierrepont	4	2
Ratcliffe and Stoke	4	3
Burton, Shelford, Gunthorpe and East Bridgford	4	4
Heveringham, Knighton, Hazleford and Syerston	4	6
Fiskerton, East Stoke, Farndon, Averham, Kelham and Newark	4	8
Muskham, Holme and Collingham	4	9
Carlton, Sutton and Bestthorpe	4	10

Marnham, Clifton, Fieldbro', Dunham and Laneham	4	11
Torksey, Littlebro', Marton, Naith, East and West Burton, Bole and Gainsbro'	5	0

Lincoln Canal and Witham Navigation

Lincoln per Chaldron	£1	2	6
Tattershall per ditto	£1	5	6
Boston per ditto	£1	5	6
Horncastle per ditto	£1	6	6
Sleaford per ditto	£1	6	6

Erewash Canal

Per Quarter

Shipleigh Old Wharf	3	6
Ilkeston Common	3	7
Sandiacre	3	8
Long Eaton and Trent Lock	3	9

Soar Navigation

Red Hill and Ratcliffe	4	3
Kingston and Kegworth	4	4
Zouch Bridge, Normanton, Disley Grange and Loughborough	4	6

Leicester Canal

Quarndon and Barrow	4	9
Mount Sorrel	4	10
Wanlip and Thurmaston	4	11
Leicester	5	1

Union Canal, in proportion to the Expenses of Freight

Melton Canal

Thrassington	5	1
Hoby and Rotherby	5	2
Asfordby and Kirkby	5	3
Melton	5	6

Oakham Canal in proportion to the Expenses of Freight

Derby Canal

Breaston and Draycot	3	10
Borrowash, Spondon and Derby	3	11
Swarkstone	4	1

Trent and Mersey Canal

Shardlow, Aston, Weston, Twiford and Willington	4	3	
Horninglow and Shobnall	4	6	
Barton Turn per Boatload of 66 qrs	£15	0	0
Alrewas per ditto	£15	10	0
Fradley and Bromley Common ditto	£15	15	0
Hansacre and Armitage ditto	£16	0	0
Fazeley, Tamworth and Lichfield ditto	£17	0	0
Rudgeley and Haywood ditto	£17	0	0

Sandon, Stone and Trentham ditto	£18	0	0
Stoke, Burslem, Harecastle ditto	£18	0	0
And to all other places according to the Expense of Freight.			

If not paid for on delivery, an additional charge of a Halfpenny per Quarter on Lime for every month credit is taken, will be added to the above prices.

The Boatmen deliver the Lime in Skips on the Boat Side, and if any unnecessary hindrance be occasioned by neglect of the Purchaser, a compensation must be made by him.

Orders addressed to Mr GABRIEL BRITTAIN, Butterley Park, near Derby, will be duly attended to, or to the following Gentlemen, who receive them on his account :-

Derbyshire : Mr Samuel Slater, Derby

Staffordshire : Mr W W Lyons, Barton Turn

Nottinghamshire : Messrs S Kirby and Son, Castle Wharf, Nottingham, and Mr Clarke, Newark

Lincolnshire : Mr Charles Haywood, Lincoln ; Mr Thos Footit, Tattershall ; Mr William Thackery, Boston ; Mr Kemm, Grantham.

Leicestershire : Mr R Sutton, Kegworth and Leicester.

Orders for Limestone, Coals and Cokes executed as usual.

10 June 17 1813

On Tuesday was committed to the county gaol **Thomas Stafford**, late of Heage, boatman, charged with having stolen in the night of the 13th inst four fowls from an outbuilding upon the premises of Thomas Clarke at Codnor.

11 October 21 1813

At Stafford Sessions held on the 9th inst, Noc(k?) alias Old Trapper, was indicted for breaking into the warehouse of Messrs Soresby and Flack at Swark(?)ton in this county, and stealing sundry articles, and **Edward Robinson** for receiving the same knowing them to be stolen, both boatmen ; they were found guilty, and sentenced to be transported for seven years.

12 February 24 1813

Twenty one persons, chiefly boatmen, were on Friday brought before the sitting magistrate at the New Bayley, Manchester, charged with riotous conduct in the streets of the town. Thirteen of them were committed for trial, and the remainder were discharged.

13 October 16 1817

Improvement in the morals of the lower orders of society being of general importance, we have much satisfaction in announcing to the public the following extract from the Report of the Committee of the Trent and Mersey Canal to the General Assembly of Proprietors at Stone, on Tuesday the 30th of September, not only as it reflects credit on a class of useful men, whose characters have not hitherto stood in the highest estimation, but as it interests the community at large. It is hoped this mark of approbation will stimulate these men to a continuance of laudable behaviour so interesting to themselves as well as to others. "Your Committee have no small pleasure in being able to state the reform that seems to have taken place in the morals of the boatmen and servants employed on this canal, the pilferages and other depredations committed upon it being of late few in number compared with those of former periods. And the Committee have the firmest reliance that by a continuance of the present system, the work of reform may be permanently effected".

12 July 2 1818

DERBY AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY

It was stated at the last anniversary that your Committee had in contemplation a plan for supplying

with the sacred Scriptures the boatmen connected with the canals in this county. A Depository has accordingly been opened at Shardlow ; and a considerable number of Bibles and Testaments have been purchased,, at the reduced prices of the Society, by the boatmen who visit that scene of traffic. A Depository for the same purpose has also been opened at the Erewash Junction Canal Lock, Mr Wood, the resident there, having kindly offered to act as the Society's agent. The success which has attended these measures is truly gratifying, and the eagerness with which the boatmen have purchased Bibles and Testaments has been in the highest degree satisfactory to your Committee : 103 copies having been thus disposed of within the short period of four months.

13 December 8 1819

RUN AWAY

From the parish of Sawley, and left his wife and family chargeable to the Parish of Hartshorn in the County of Derby

JOHN WILKINS, boatman

About 5 feet 8 inches high, round faced and darkish complexion.

Whoever will judge him, in any of his Majesty's Gaols, or give information to the Overseer of Hartshorn so that he may be apprehended, shall receive one guinea reward, and all reasonable charges paid.

GEORGE BAGNALL

Overseer of Hartshorn

14 June 21 1820

William Watts of Loughborough, boatman, was taken into custody, after a stout resistance, on Tuesday se'nnight, charged with having, in company with **William Smedley**, another boatman of Loughborough (apprehended near Birmingham a day or two before), stolen a couple of horses from a field at Belgrave near Leicester the preceding Wednesday night. They are both committed for trial. Smedley, it is said, has made a full confession of their guilt. One or both of the horses belonged to Mr Bradley, timber merchant of Leicester.

15 June 18 1823

William Handley of Shardlow, boatman, to the sessions, charged with stealing a quantity of coals from the coal wharf at Egginton, the property of Thomas Hammersley.

15 September 17 1823

NOTTINGHAM SEPTEMBER 12 On Tuesday morning about half past four o'clock, a fire broke out in a shed or building occupied by Messrs Youle, timber merchants, of this place, situate close to the canal, by the lock side. In a short time the flames gathered such an ascendancy as to threaten destruction to the entire stock on the premises, which from its nature and magnitude might have produced the most calamitous consequences, and laid in ruins the whole of the surrounding buildings. The fire was discovered by a boatman passing up the canal, who gave the alarm, when the inhabitants of the neighbouring tenements turned out of their beds in the greatest haste. No time was lost in procuring the engines, and six being speedily brought to the spot, were immediately got into play under the direction of Mr Griffin, the engineer, who seeing no possibility of saving the building where the fire originated, directed his efforts to the preservation of the Navigation Inn and the outbuildings adjoining. In this he was promptly and effectually aided by the people who had collected, and by their united and active exertions, the destructive element was prevented from extending, and the fire was finally subdued. It was seven o'clock ere all danger had entirely ceased. How the conflagration happened has not been clearly ascertained. The extent of the property destroyed, though great, is considerably less than had been anticipated ; it consisted principally of mahogany, black ebony, violet, tulip and other valuable wood. We are happy to learn that the whole was insured. Mr Brown of the Navigation Inn has sustained a serious loss from the injury done to his furniture &c in removing it out of the house, and much damage has been done to the building. A

party of the 3rd Dragoon Guards from the barracks, under the command of Sergeant Major Gilson and sergeants Jacobs and Lavender, attended with the greatest promptitude, and rendered essential service ; indeed their activity and exertion merits every praise. Nor can we omit to notice the conduct of several other individuals who, regardless of consequences as to their health, stood up to the middle in the canal, from the first to the last, handing supplies of water.

16 October 22 1823

STEALING FROM A CANAL BOAT **Samuel Johnson** (*Jackson?*), **Thomas Moore** and **Thomas Barnett**, boatmen in the employ of Messrs Pickford and Co, stood charged with the commission of the above crime. Two parcels containing hosiery goods had been forwarded from Market Bosworth for Manchester by Pickford's boat, the *Peace and Plenty*, and on its arrival at Stoke, it was examined, as usual, when these packages appeared to have been opened. Upon learning this, Mr Hindle, Pickford's agent at Stoke, proceeded to the boat and charged the three prisoners with having disturbed the truss and stolen some of the stockings, when Jackson (*sic*) said to the other two, "Give me the keys, and I'll give him the stockings, and all will be done with". One of them gave Jackson the keys, and he went to a cupboard from which he brought four pair of stockings. Mr Hindle had them taken into custody, when Jackson said to Moore, "I told thee to come out of the hole, and let the things alone ; I told thee what would be the matter", and Moore said, " I had nothing more to do with it than you two". The manufacturers proved the stockings to be the same they had forwarded. Verdict, guilty. Sir Oswald Mosley, who acted as Chairman, remarked that he had a painful duty to perform, but it was a duty owing to the public, in passing a sentence in this case which in different circumstances might appear severe ; to boatmen, valuable property was frequently consigned, and a fidelity proportionate to the responsibility of the situation ought to be expected from them ; but the prisoners, having been entrusted with these goods, instead of taking care of them, had stolen part of what they had been appointed to guard. In regard to the younger prisoner (Barnett), the favour of the Court would be shown, on account of his youth, being only 19, and two letters of recommendation from persons of high rank having been handed to the Magistrates in his behalf. Jackson and Moore to be transported seven years, and Barnett to be imprisoned one year, the first and last weeks in solitary confinement.

17 December 3 1823

ESCAPED FROM THE BOROUGH GAOL ON THE EVENING OF TUESDAY THE 2ND OF DECEMBER INSTANT

SAMUEL GREAVES convicted of a misdemeanour, and sentenced to three month's imprisonment. He is a private in the Nottinghamshire regiment of militia, about 28 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches in height, stout made, has light hair, fair complexion, long visage, and is generally employed as a boatman. He had on a blue smock frock, corded small clothes, purple silk handkerchief, mixed worsted stockings and shoes.

18 December 24 1823

On the 15th instant, an inquest was held at Holme Pierrepont before Thomas Wright, Gent, Coroner, on view of the body of **Joseph Wood**, a boatman in the employ of Mr William Wilson of Cropwell Bishop, who died suddenly. It appeared that on Saturday last, an altercation took place between the deceased and the men employed in working a boat belonging to Messrs James Sutton Esq and Co of Shardlow, when the former began to swear in a most horrid manner, and in the heat of passion he fell down in his boat, and immediately expired. There was nothing in the conduct of Messrs Sutton and Co's men which gave the deceased any just grounds of offence. Verdict, Died by the Visitation of God.

19 August 11 1824

DERBY SUMMER ASSIZES **Joseph Smith** and **Thomas Marsden**, charged with stealing at Codnor Park two pit ropes, the property of Messrs John Wright and William Jessop. The prisoners

are boatmen, and had moored their boat near the Foundry at Codnor Park on the 14th July. Between eleven and twelve o'clock, the prisoners were seen coming towards the boat from the corner of the foundry wall, and Marsden deposited a flat rope in the boat, and Smith dropped the rope he had in his possession. The prisoners then ran away. Both ropes were the property of the Butterley Company. Several respectable persons spoke to the good character of the prisoners. Guilty – but recommended to mercy on the ground of their good character and youth. Imprisoned three calendar months each, and kept to hard labour.

20 October 13 1824

Committed to the County House of Correction at Derby for two months, and to be kept to hard labour, **Robert Bond** and **Joseph Boot**, boatmen, in default of payment of the penalty of ten shillings and costs for injuring some growing potatoes at Holloway, near Crich.

21 June 22 1825

On Monday se'nnight a large fish was observed by some boatmen at Runcorn, when the tide was ebbing, struggling between two stones. They with some difficulty secured it. When taken it was very savage, and attempted to bite the man who held it ; so that they were compelled to knock it on the head. It turned out to be a young basking shark, the first, it is believed, that has ever been heard of in the river Mersey. It measures about four feet six inches long. It is now deposited in the Museum of the Manchester Natural History Society.

22 October 18 1826

DERBYSHIRE MICHAELMAS SESSIONS **George Wall** aged 24 and **Samuel Locker** aged 26, for stealing from the outbuilding of John Thraves, four geese, his property. The prisoners were boatmen, and the geese were found in the cabin of their boat. Guilty. To be imprisoned one year each, and kept to hard labour.

23 November 1 1826

PARDON ASKED Whereas I the undersigned **JOSEPH JOHNSON** of the Borough of Derby, Boatman, did on Monday the 9th instant sell and dispose of and give away to various persons in the parish of Borrowash, in the county of Derby, a Quantity of the Babbington soft coal belonging to Messrs Gervaise Bourne and Co. Now I the said Joseph Johnson do admit my being guilty of the said Offence, and having been threatened with a Prosecution in consequence thereof, but in consideration of my family, and upon condition of making this public acknowledgment, promising never to be guilty of the like again, paying the expense already incurred and one pound for the benefit of the Lunatic Asylum near Nottingham, the said Messrs Gervaise Bourne and Co have consented to forego any further Proceedings. As witness my hand this 31st day of October 1828.

his
JOSEPH JOHNSON
mark

Witness : Ed Goodall

24 July 25 1827

Committed to the County Gaol since our last, William Clarke, charged with stealing a pocketbook at Sandyacre, containing eight pounds, and a purse containing six shillings, the property of **John Cufflin** of Leicester, boatman.

25 January 30 1828

INQUESTS HELD BY ENOCH HAND, GENT, CORONER On the 21st instant, an inquest was held at Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire, on the body of **Richard Hickling**, a boatman. The deceased was in the employ of Mr Thos Pollard of Kegworth, and on the 7th of December last was by himself in a narrow boat, appearing as to be moving the boat down the river Soar, from the stone

bridge to the wooden bridge at the bottom of the new side cut, and was missing from that time to the 19th instant, when the body was found lodged upon land by the late flood, in a meadow called Mason's Meadow, in the parish of Ratcliffe. No evidence appeared to show in what manner he was drowned. Verdict : Found drowned.

26 September 10 1828

CHESHIRE ASSIZES **James Clegg**, a flatman employed on the canal between Runcorn and Manchester, was found guilty of the manslaughter of his wife under very aggravated circumstances, and was sentenced to be transported for life. The principal witness for the prosecution, a fellow boatman of the prisoner, underwent a most severe cross-examination by Mr Sergeant Jones, and exhibited a specimen of as thorough ignorance as was ever witnessed in a Court of Justice. A few of the questions put to him to try his competency as a witness will be sufficient for the information of the reader.

Mr Sergeant Jones : Do you mean to say that you were examined by the Coroner when you were in a state of intoxication?

Witness : I don't know.

Mr Sergeant Jones : Will you swear that you said one word there about his d----ing her eyes and wishing she was a corpse ; or that he would kill her about the £200?

Witness : I don't know, I was drunk. I had been drunk for three days.

Mr Sergeant Jones : Were you sworn?

Witness : I don't know. They put a book in my hand!

Mr Sergeant Jones : Do you know that you are sworn now?

Witness : I come to tell the truth.

Mr Sergeant Jones : Do you know anything of the contents of that book on which you have been sworn? What is it?

Witness : I don't know.

Mr Sergeant Jones : Do you go to Church?

Witness : Church? I went on Sunday.

Mr Sergeant Jones : What did you go to church for?

Witness : To see the sight, folk all went.

Mr Sergeant Jones : Have you been at a church before for ten years?

Witness : No.

Mr Sergeant Jones : What is your belief?

Witness : Belief? I don't know.

Mr Sergeant Jones : Can you say the Lord's Prayer?

Witness : No.

Attorney General : Do you know that you are sworn to speak the truth?

Witness : I don't know. I did speak the truth.

Attorney General : Do you know what you was sworn for?

Witness : I don't know what I was sworn for. I was brought here to speak the truth. I know it is wrong to tell lies.

By the Judge : If you told lies, and thereby took a man's life away, what would become of you?

Witness : They'd hang me.

Judge : Attend, unless you attend and answer distinctly the questions put to you, I'll commit you.

Witness : I can't help that.

Attorney General : If you tell lies, you will go to a bad place.

Witness : I know it's wrong to tell lies, if I do I reckon I shall, but I have not. If I am good I shall go to Heaven I suppose.

Mr Sergeant Jones contended that the witness, having no religious knowledge or belief, was incompetent. The Learned Judge was of opinion that he had sufficiently answered some of the questions put to him, so as to show that he believed in the existence of a GOD – of a future state of rewards and punishments, and the obligation of an oath. He was a very ignorant man, but the extent

of his religious knowledge could not be tried.

27 October 22 1828

APPEALS

BRAMCOTE APPELLANTS AND LONG EATON On the removal of **William Locker** and his family. The respondents proved a *prima facie* case of settlement of the pauper in Bramcote under an apprenticeship to a person named Whateley, a framework knitter there. In answer to which the appellants endeavoured to establish a settlement subsequently gained by the pauper in Long Eaton, in consequence of an arrangement made between Whateley and the pauper's father, who after the pauper had served little more than four years, purchased from his master his time out for £4, and employed him himself as a boatman, contending that under this arrangement the pauper had gained a settlement in Long Eaton, either under the indentures or as a hired servant to his father. The Court, however, after hearing the evidence in support of the Appellants' case, were unanimously of opinion the Order of Removal should be confirmed. Order confirmed accordingly.

28 April 29 1829

At Chester Assizes, which terminated last week, **Samuel Cook**, a boatman in the employ of James Sutton Esq and Co of Shardlow, was convicted of stealing a quantity of malt while on its passage to Manchester, and Edward Farnsworth for receiving the same, and both received sentence of transportation for fourteen years.

29 October 21 1829

ALARMING AND DESTRUCTIVE FIRE The town of Manchester was thrown into considerable consternation early on Monday morning, the 12th instant, in consequence of a fire having broken out in the extensive warehouse occupied by Messrs Barnby, Faulkner and Co, canal carriers, and by the Halifax and Manchester Merchants' Company, situated at the upper end of Dale Street. About four o'clock on Saturday afternoon, three or four men in the employment of that firm commenced unloading a vessel which had arrived by the canal, a branch of which passes under the warehouse. On the vessel being discharged, she was again loaded with bale goods for Hull. The loading was completed about five o'clock on Monday morning, and the men then went home, while the hands belonging to the vessel (a captain and a boatman) pulled her from under the warehouse and began to cover up the cargo, with the view of immediately setting off upon their voyage. While engaged in this employment, the captain observed some smoke issuing from the lower storey of the warehouse. He immediately, with the help of the boatman, hauled the vessel under the warehouse to ascertain the cause, and on entering the warehouse they discovered that a quantity of loose flax which lay on the floor was on fire. In the hope of extinguishing it, they began to throw water upon the blazing pile by means of the buckets belonging to the boat ; and after some time the flames appeared to be subdued ; but on their lifting up a bundle or two of the flax to see whether the fire was completely extinguished, it blazed up afresh, and with such fury that all their subsequent efforts to suppress it were unavailing. Finding that the conflagration every moment gained additional strength, the men left the warehouse, one going to awaken the warehouseman and the other persons connected with the premises, and the other proceeding with all haste to the Police office to obtain the attendance of the fire engines. The fire was first discovered about six o'clock, but in consequence of the time consumed by the boatmen in endeavouring to extinguish the flames, it was nearly seven o'clock before the engines arrived, although no unnecessary delay took place on the part of the firemen or their superintendent. By this time, however, the whole of the premises were enveloped in flames, and it was found impossible to save either the building itself or any of its contents. The efforts of the firemen were therefore principally directed to the preservation of the surrounding offices and buildings. There being a plentiful supply of water, this secondary object was happily accomplished. In the meantime, the extensive warehouse in which the fire originated was consumed, and presented a terrific object. The roof fell in before eight o'clock, but the contents of the building continued to burn with fury until near eleven o'clock. So great at one time was the heat that fears were

entertained for the safety of the extensive granaries of the Rochdale Canal Company, which are near the warehouses destroyed, and in which an immense quantity of grain and flour was deposited. We are happy, however, to say that they entirely escaped. The only grain or flour destroyed was 50 quarters of beans and 100 sacks of flour, which were deposited in Messrs Barnby, Faulkner and Co's warehouse. Some casks of tallow, which stood upon the wharf about twenty or thirty yards from the burning warehouse, repeatedly caught fire, and were with great difficulty extinguished.

The warehouse which is destroyed was thirty five yards in length, about the same breadth, and five stories in height. The building was intersected longitudinally by a strong brick wall, the eastern half being occupied by Messrs Barnby, Faulkner and Co, and the other half by the Halifax and Manchester Merchants' Company. The fire, although originating in the first mentioned division of the warehouse, speedily communicated to the adjoining part, and they were both simultaneously destroyed. It fortunately happened that there was a much smaller quantity of goods than usual in Messrs Barnby, Faulkner and Co's warehouse, several boat loads having been sent off on the two or three preceding days. The warehouse occupied by the Halifax and Manchester Company, however, was filled with merchandise of various descriptions, principally cotton, which belonged principally to different country manufacturers who, after purchasing it in the Manchester market, had deposited it in the Halifax Company's warehouse until a convenient opportunity occurred of conveying it to their several factories. As the property which was consumed belonged to many different owners, it has not been ascertained whether these parties were insured, or to what extent ; but at all events, even if uninsured, the loss will fall, not upon one individual or firm, but on a considerable number. The entire building belonged to the Rochdale Canal Company, and was not insured at all. The total damage, including the value of the building, is estimated at from £30,000 to £50,000, but cannot be less than the former sum. The greater part of this value consisted of goods in the Halifax Company's warehouse, there not being more than £2000 worth of property in that of Messrs Barnby, Faulkner and Co ; and these last are insured for the greater part of their loss. Not an article was saved from the warehouse of these gentlemen, but there was time to get out a quantity of the cotton lodged in that of the Halifax Company.

The effects of this calamity are not confined merely to the loss of property. About half past ten o'clock a large part of the eastern wall of the warehouse fell down, and immediately afterwards part of the western wall fell in. Two of the firemen of the Royal Exchange Assurance Company were standing at the time in a doorway, pouring water from the engine on the mass of burning materials which lay on the floor. One of the men, named Thomas Taylor, warned of his danger, jumped down from the doorway and endeavoured to escape by running from the building ; but part of the ruins fell upon him, and his skull was dreadfully fractured. He was carried to the Infirmary, where he still lies in a most dangerous state. The other man ran within the building and fortunately escaped. It is supposed that the fire originated either from a spark from one of the candles used by the men who were at work on Sunday night (although these, to prevent accidents, were enclosed in lamps), or from the flax having become damp and heated.

Several of the London papers of Tuesday contain an exceedingly incorrect account of the calamity ; in which, among other inaccuracies, it is stated that the fireman was killed on the spot, and that four barrels of gunpowder exploded.

30 April 28 1830

DERBYSHIRE EASTER SESSIONS **Samuel Kenny alias Kenyon**, aged 58, was indicted for stealing 10 cwt weight of coal from the Somercotes Coke and Coal Yard in the parish of Alfreton, the property of W P Morewood Esq.

William Bradley, a person employed by the prosecutor at his coal wharf, was the only witness examined against the prisoner. He stated that having occasion to go to the wharf between four and five o'clock in the morning of the day in question, the 20th March last, he saw the prisoner plying a boat on the canal which adjoins the wharf ; that having brought his boat alongside the wharf, he got out and took a piece of hard coal from the wharf and deposited it in his boat ; on this, witness went up to him and said, "Kenny, doest think such work as that will do? Thou'st got a ton of coal". To

which prisoner replied, "No, I've only three pieces".

On behalf of the prisoner, **John Storer**, who had been charged in the above offence, but against whom no bill was found, was called. He was in the cabin at the time the alleged robbery was stated to have taken place, and heard Bradley tax the prisoner with it, on which prisoner said, "You'd better search the boat", but which Bradley refused to do ; did not hear prisoner say he had three pieces of coal in the boat, nor was there any in when they delivered the cargo at Messrs Arkwright's. Mr Wheatcroft (prisoner's master) spoke favourably of his character, and stated that he was so well assured of his honesty that if he was acquitted of the present charge, he would immediately take him again into his employ.

The jury after a few minutes deliberation acquitted the prisoner.

31 April 28 1830

DREADFUL ACCIDENT AT MANCHESTER It is our painful duty this morning to detail some of the main particulars of one of the most appalling accidents which has occurred in this town for a number of years ; indeed, with the exception of the fatal launch at the New Quay about three years ago, there has been nothing even to compare to it for a great length of time.

It is well known to our readers in this town that a bridge is in course of construction over the Irwell from the New Bailey field to the ground a little beyond the New Quay, in order to carry the line of railway across into Water Street.

About eight o'clock, 19 or 20 of the masons and their labourers entered the boat which was to carry them over the river to breakfast. This number being much too large for the size of the vessel, the water nearly approached the edge, and sufficient room was not allowed for the boatman to use his oars with effect. The men as usual gave the boat a violent push from the shore, and before the boatman could get it under command with his oars, the boat, with the impetus given to it, dashed against the piles. The current being very strong with the late rains, and the boat being crowded with men in a standing position, the shock was so violent that all the men were thrown to one side ; in a moment the boat was filled with water, and the men, with the exception of the boatman, **William Wilson**, who was sitting in the boat up to the middle in water, were precipitated into the river.

Several of the men seized hold of Wilson with a convulsive grasp, in the vain hope of saving themselves ; but he, making a desperate effort, plunged into the water, and dived to the New Quay wharf. Wilson's presence of mind in this awful juncture is worthy of great praise. Scarcely had he arrived at the shore when he pushed two beams of wood towards the struggling men in the water, under the hope that they might be of service to them. He then jumped into a stone boat which was laying at the side, and rowed into the middle. Two of the men had clung to the piles, and those Wilson took into the boat. Their names are James McDonnell and James Findlay. Another man named Sandie Matterson swam to one of the New Quay rafts and was picked up ; and three others, David Fleming, John Carter and George Roy, swam to the shore. The remainder, amounting to twelve at least, were drowned, having sunk before the strenuous exertions which were being made for their rescue could be available.

Of the sufferers, eleven were taken out of the water within two hours, and carried to Mr Raby's ; but the twelfth has not yet been discovered. The names of the men found are :- John Winstanley Turner sen ; ditto, jun ; Peter Diamond ; John Wilson ; Jeremiah Andrews ; Ralph Cordwell ; James Dowley ; James Bearren ; Donald McDonald ; Alexander Findlay (brother to the Findlay saved) and William Howard, The boy who has not yet been got out of the river is named James Findley (no relation to the others), aged thirteen. It cannot be known with certainty whether these are the whole of the sufferers until this evening, the period at which the men are paid their wages.

The house of Mr Raby has been thronged during the early part of the day by the agonised friends of the sufferers. The inquest will be held on the bodies at five o'clock tomorrow.

32 December 1 1830

On Sunday se'nnight, an inquest was held before C F Meredith, Gent, coroner, at the Peacock, Leicester, on view of the body of **Samuel Simmonds**, a boatman aged 45 who, at an early hour on

Sunday morning, had got upon the front seat of the Courier coach to return to Loughborough, and being in a state of intoxication, before the coach had proceeded far, he fell off and was killed on the spot. Verdict : Accidental death. He was interred at Loughborough on Wednesday.

33 February 8 1832

EXECUTION OF **GEORGE BECK**, AGED 20, **GEORGE HEARSON**, AGED 22 AND **JOHN ARMSTRONG**, AGED 26

NOTTINGHAM, FEBRUARY 3 Notwithstanding the unwearied and extraordinary exertions which have been made in favour of the unfortunate men who were condemned at the late Special Assize for this county, the extreme sentence of the law was, on Wednesday morning last, carried into effect on the three prisoners, Beck, Hearson and Armstrong, who had been convicted of riotously, tumultuously and feloniously burning and destroying Mr Lowe's silk mill at Beeston. Every precaution had been taken to preserve the public peace, and on Tuesday (in addition to a large constabulary force under the superintendence of Mr Adamson of the police, London), two pieces of artillery were brought into the town, under an escort of the 2nd Dragoon Guards or Queen's Bays, and an additional company of the 18th Regiment of Foot joined the detachment before stationed here. At a very early hour on Wednesday morning, numbers of persons were moving to the place of execution at the County Gaol, anxious to gain a favourable situation to witness the awful spectacle. We reached the Gaol long before day had dawned, and found that all the preparations connected with the instrument of death were completed. The drop was erected on the steps in front of the County Hall, and the space between the iron gate leading to the Gaol yard and Mr Fellows's lawn was kept entirely clear by a numerous body of special constables and the Sheriff's javelin men. In the interior of the prison, the scene was well calculated to excite the most solemn reflections ; the appearance of the wretched men so soon to leave the dreary retirement of the condemned cell, to appear before the tribunal of an eternal Judge, was of itself enough to impress the mind with awe ; while the dismal clank of the prisoners' fetters, the steady steps of the military sentinels, and the mutterings of the gathering crowds, all tended to keep alive the fearful expectation of the last awful ceremony. Most sincerely do we hope that the dreadful example which has been made will not fail to produce a powerful influence on the minds of the turbulent and misguided ; most earnestly do we wish that they may hence learn to respect the rights of property, to render contented and cheerful obedience to the laws of the country, always remembering that plunder, rapine and destruction will only increase their privations, lead to misery and shame and perhaps to an ignominious death.

It will be recollected that, on the close of the business at the late Special Sessions, George Beck, George Hearson, John Armstrong and Thomas Shelton, for burning Beeston Mill, and Charles Berkins for setting fire to Colwick Hall, all received sentence of death. These five unhappy men were immediately afterwards placed in one room, where they were visited by the Rev Dr Wood, Chaplain to the Gaol, some of the Wesleyan Methodist ministers, and other friends ; but it was with great difficulty, no doubt owing to the exertions which they were informed were making for them to obtain a reprieve, that they could be persuaded to pay any serious attention to the solemn duty of preparing for the awful change that awaited them. On the Friday previous to their execution, they expressed a wish to their attendant to be left alone, as they were unwell, which request, to a certain extent, was acceded to. On Saturday evening between seven and eight o'clock, there was a visible alteration in their manner, which excited an apprehension that some mysterious project was about to be put into execution ; they were therefore watched narrowly, and about eight o'clock, Hearson went into a cell to fetch out a bed, which he and Beck carried into the condemned room. The bed was soon after searched, and in it was found a number of blankets slit up and tied together with knots, two feet each asunder, to the length of twenty seven yards. All the prisoners (except Shelton) were privy to the intended attempt at escape, by means of throwing part of the line of blanket over the wall, and securing it at the top by the iron spikes ; then each pulling himself up and holding by the knots, an attempt was to be made to descend on the other side into Narrow Marsh. Free intercourse with their friends had been allowed, consequently the time when the attempt was to be made was

communicated, for many persons were seen waiting in the Marsh to render assistance, if opportunity presented itself. The prisoners were then all doubly ironed, except Shelton, who had refused to take any part in the transaction, and strict care was taken that in all future visits no fresh projects should be matured.

The prisoners during the period that had elapsed since they received sentence, had taken their meals regularly, and appeared in tolerable spirits ; but on Sunday and Monday they were more serious in their attention to religious subjects, and Hearson began to fail in his appetite. Shelton and Berkins on Monday evening exhibited signs of true penitence, but the other three remained almost unconscious of the importance of seeking for mercy at the Throne of Grace.

On Tuesday morning, a King's messenger brought a respite for Shelton and Berkins, who received the glad news with much thankfulness and expressions of gratitude to Almighty God. They were immediately removed from their three unhappy companions, who evidently felt as if hope was departed from them. The work of preparation for death was now urged upon them, and towards evening Hearson sunk into a state of gloom and apparent despondency. In conversation he was reserved, except when speaking of the character of the witnesses who had appeared for the prosecution and the nature of their testimony. During this night, the first symptoms of anything bordering on real penitence were manifested by Hearson, it was then for the first time that he expressed his willingness to forgive those who had been the means of convicting him ; at intervals a faint hope seemed to break in upon the darkness of his mind. He paid close attention to the instructions of his religious advisers, and occasionally retired to a corner of the cell to pray ; during his supplication he was heard to implore the Almighty for mercy, and pointedly alluded to the manner in which he had profaned the Sabbath by *boxing &c.* In one of his gloomy fits he sat talking to himself in a sullen mood, and distinctly said, striking his breast, "Shall I? - no - I will not get twenty men hanged - I will sooner suffer". From the disposition manifested by Hearson on Tuesday night, it was not at all expected that his conduct would undergo the change which it did before execution. Beck was very reserved, at times seeming very anxious respecting his fate - at others, sinking into sullen apathy. Armstrong, towards midnight, became more resigned, and stated that he had not felt so comfortable before. He said, "I have tried to pray, but am no scholar". To Mr Lacey (who with another friend, Mr Curtis, had been unremitting in his attention to the prisoners) he became very communicative, and wished him to call on his friends, and request his brother to attend one of the Sunday Schools at which Mr Lacey gives instructions ; but he still persisted in his determination not to confess his guilt. He said he could have proved his innocence, if he had not been so stupid and so desirous to save the character of a female he had been living with ; but he was glad that since his trial that the female had come forward to prove his innocence.

At eight o'clock they stripped themselves to wash and dress for the execution, when Hearson seemed to rally and appeared more cheerful. They each put on a black coat and waistcoat, and white trousers. At ten o'clock, the Rev Dr Wood administered to them the Holy Sacrament, which they partook of in a solemn and affecting manner. At a few minutes after eleven, they were acquainted that the mail was arrived without any respite, and that they must proceed to the place of execution. Beck received the intelligence without uttering a word. Hearson made no answer, but his countenance instantly changed and fell. Armstrong said, "Well, then, we must suffer". On passing Shelton and Berkins, who stood at their cell door, they each of them shook and kissed hands, saying, "Goodbye, my lad ; the lord have mercy upon you". Beck, on seeing some officers and a detachment of the 18th Regiment of Foot in the debtors' yard adjoining the press room, moved his hand and said, "Good Bye". During the time they were pinioning, Hearson and Armstrong frequently said, "The Lord have mercy upon us!", and when the executioner was about to take Hearson's neckerchief off, the latter rose from his seat in a hasty manner, and stood so that his shirt and neckerchief might be more conveniently removed. Armstrong acted in a similar manner. Hearson then asked for a glass of wine, which Mr Brierley instantly brought. Armstrong, before drinking, said, "Well, we may all meet in heaven!, but I am a murdered man". Hearson said he wished to have his neckerchief tied over his eyes before he went on the drop, that he might not see the crowd. They then proceeded into the body of the Shire Hall, where this request was intended to

be complied with, but by some means it was neglected. All present seemed solemnly affected, particularly while the Rev Dr Wood was engaged in prayer, and on bidding the prisoners farewell. Beck was first taken to the scaffold, which he ascended in a firm yet becoming manner. Hearson was then called upon, and on a friend offering his arm, he said, "No, I can walk by myself". He took a spring, ran up the steps, and darted in front of the drop. He tore his white cap from his head, and twirled it and the black silk handkerchief he held in his hand round in the air. He appeared almost wild and frantic, and as in a fit of frenzy, he commenced a regular step in a dance, which he continued for several seconds!!! He at length was persuaded to be a little more decorous, but his feelings appeared to be much excited on recognising many of his old friends, whom he acknowledged in the crowd. Cries of "murder" proceeded from the crowd, and loud cheers were frequently given. The rope having been adjusted for Hearson, Armstrong was then called for. The latter, on seeing Hearson's conduct, said, "I will have none of that". He ascended the platform in a becoming manner, and moved to many persons whom he knew. He then threw away two oranges amongst the crowd. The ropes being properly fixed, Hearson's black neckerchief was tied over his eyes, and the caps drawn over all their faces. A loud cheer followed this act. The Rev Chaplain commenced reading the burial service at twenty minutes before twelve o'clock, and at the words "in the midst of life we are in death", the drop fell, followed by a shriek from the crowd, which caused a sensation not easily to be described. In three or four minutes life was extinct, almost without a struggle.

The order for making the drop was not given till Saturday evening. It was erected in front of the County Gaol by four o'clock on Wednesday morning, and was put up in about six hours. On Wednesday morning, between five and six o'clock, a body of special constables took their station in two lines across the street, leaving a space between them of about fifty yards ; and bodies of infantry were stationed in the Gaol and at St Mary's Church, and of Hussars in Plumtree Street and Market Street. The execution was expected to take place as early as eight o'clock, but for the satisfaction of all parties the Sheriff postponed it till eleven. Thousands of people (principally men) filled the streets, and patiently kept their standing till eleven o'clock. Every preparation having been made, nothing remained but to wait for the arrival of a messenger, who had been despatched to the Post Office. At ten minutes past eleven, the messenger appeared at the corner of St Mary's Churchyard with two letters from the Post Office, and which he held up. Anxiety was raised to the highest pitch, and many expressed a confident hope that a respite had arrived. The expectation, however, was not realised, as the letters only contained an acknowledgment of the petition forwarded from this town on Sunday last with a copy of the petition. Many thousands remained until the bodies were cut down. It is supposed that upwards of 10,000 persons were eye witnesses of the fatal scene.

Beck was born at Wollaton, and has been employed as a boatman. When a boy, he was tap lad at the Eclipse public house in Chapel Bar, and by his mother's side was related to Shaw, the Life Guardsman. The following inscription was placed on his coffin :-

O for an overcoming faith
To cheer my dying hour,
To triumph o'er the monsters
With all their cruel power.

Hearson is a native of Nottingham ; his father died about twelve months since, but his mother is yet living. He married a year and a half ago, but has no family. He was put to the business of a bobbin and carriage maker, and subsequently worked in a machine. He was attached to pugilism, and this led him into company. He obtained in the prize ring, in which he had always come off victorious, the appellation of "Curly Hearson". His last fight was with the Mansfield champion, whom he beat in ten rounds.

Armstrong was born at Arnold, near this town, but latterly resided, when he could obtain work, with his father and mother in Millstone Lane in Nottingham. His three brothers and two sisters are also residents in this town. The last 10 years of his life has been spent in Nottingham, though he has

lived in Mansfield, Derby and other places when employment could not be obtained in this town ; his character had generally stood fair for civility, sobriety and honesty through life. He was brought up to work in a cotton hose frame, and at the time of the riots was about to have been married to a young woman residing in Poplar. He addressed a letter to his father on Tuesday morning last, in which he mentioned the names of eight young men whom he wished to be his bearers, and concluded by expressing a hope that he should meet his friends at the right hand of God.

Mr Payne has been indefatigable in his exertions on behalf of the prisoners, as their attorney ; but disavows any knowledge of, or connection with, the petition forwarded to the House of Commons.

34 June 27 1832

CHOLERA This dreadful disease is evidently renewing its ravages with increased malignity in several districts of the United Kingdom, and the various country journals which have passed through our hands within the last day or two furnish additional evidence of the accuracy of the statement.

The Manchester Guardian of Saturday says :- The apprehension we last week expressed of the existence of cholera amongst us turned out to be completely well founded. The occurrence of "twenty cases of *suspected* cholera" is now officially announced by the Board of Health. There is no doubt, however, that they were all cases of actual cholera. Of the twenty, seven had been reported to the Board previous to our last, the whole of which, we believe, terminated fatally, no proper medical aid having been called in until it was too late to be of any essential service. On Sunday and Monday last, nine additional cases were reported.

The Stockport Advertiser also says :- We are sorry to say that this malady is stated to have visited this town. On Monday a poor man and his wife, on their way from Manchester to Birmingham, took up their abode for the night at a lodging house where, about two o'clock on the following morning, the woman was seized with violent spasmodic affections, and it was deemed advisable in the course of the day to remove her to the wards of the House of Recovery, where she died the same evening.

The Glasgow Herald of Friday observes :- Since our last, this dreadful and insidious disease has broken out in different parts of the city with a virulence that has enshrouded in gloom the minds of the whole community, and plunged into the deepest grief a number of the most respectable families. The malady, in resuming its ravages, has selected for its victims people moving in the most comfortable circumstances. A decided case of cholera is stated to have manifested itself in the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton, in the person of a boatman from Shardlow, who died in the cabin of his boat at Coven early on Tuesday morning.

The disease continues to show itself with great virulence at Liverpool, and increases to a fearful and alarming extent in Ireland. It has also within the last few days exhibited itself at Lincoln, Selby and Holywell. On Saturday one new case occurred on board the ship *Brutus* at Liverpool, and one death; six others are likely to recover.

The cholera at Ferry, near Gainsborough, has been very virulent during the last week. In the course of eight days, twelve deaths took place ; four of which were on Sunday and three on Monday. Three of them were peculiar ; Mrs Goodrick, aged 67, died on Sunday forenoon ; Mr Stephens, aged 60, a schoolmaster who lodged with her, took ill in the afternoon and died in the evening ; and Mrs Goodrick's husband, aged 69, who had been in his usual health and accompanied some of his children from the funeral of his wife to some distance, returned home on Monday, took the disease, and was a corpse the same day. The inhabitants of Ferry, in consequence, have been very greatly alarmed ; and as the disease has broken out at East Ferry, in the case of Rt Bainton, who was very suddenly carried off, the alarm has extended to the neighbourhood ; we are, however, in hopes that the disease has spent itself, and has assumed a milder form. At Morton, in the parish of Gainsborough, two case of cholera occurred on Wednesday.

35 September 12 1832

CHOLERA AT STAVELEY We understand that a decided case of cholera occurred at Shardlow in

this county on the 2nd instant. The person afflicted was the wife of a boat master in the employ of Messrs Sutton and Co, and it is with satisfaction we record the promptitude displayed on the occasion by that respectable firm. The deceased was interred as expeditiously as possible, the bedding and clothes were also immediately destroyed, and every other precaution taken to prevent the spread of this fatal disease. We are further informed that a meeting of the inhabitants was convened on the following Monday (James Sutton Esq in the chair), when it was unanimously resolved to fit up a vessel, under the superintendence of a professional gentleman, as a temporary hospital afloat in the river Trent, for the reception of cases, should any other unfortunately occur, and that the expenses should be defrayed by a rate upon the town.

On Tuesday, a boatman from Worksop arrived at Staveley, near Chesterfield, for a barge load of coals. While there, he drank pretty freely, and was suddenly taken ill. Mr France, surgeon, was called in, and declared that all the symptoms of Asiatic cholera were present. A nurse was immediately provided for the man, who was sent back under her care to Worksop. He expired, however, on his voyage, within three miles of Worksop.

36 October 10 1832

CHOLERA AT BORROWASH We regret to state that four cases of cholera have occurred at Borrowash in this county, all of which have proved fatal. The first victim was a boatman, who was seized on Sunday se'nnight, and who died on the following day. His wife was then afflicted, together with her mother, who also in a few days were hurried to the tomb. The attendant upon these unfortunates, a nurse, was also attacked, and died on Monday last. We have not heard of any fresh cases, and sincerely trust the place may now be considered as free from this appalling malady.

37 January 30 1833

THE EXPLOSION AT THE DARTFORD MILLS

CORONER'S INQUEST ON THE BODIES Tuesday morning at ten o'clock, Joseph Carttar Esq, Coroner for Kent, and a Jury composed of 25 of the most respectable inhabitants of the parish, assembled at the Bull and George Inn, Dartford, to inquire into the circumstances attending the deaths of the following eight persons, who were killed at the explosion of the Dartford Powder Mills on Monday morning, viz :- William Williams, **Thomas Hawkins**, Edward Benning, Sarah Wenass, Sarah Pescott, Maria Harding, Sarah White and John Powell. The latter was wounded in the thigh, and he died shortly after amputation was performed. After the Jury had been sworn, they proceeded to view the bodies of the unfortunate men and women. The spectacle was horrid in the extreme. All the bodies were so frightfully mangled and scorched that it was with great difficulty they could be identified. The Jury also viewed the scene of devastation very minutely, as did also a number of other persons, many of whom had come both far and near for the purpose. The whole of the extensive premises appeared to have suffered in a more or less degree, and the scene was truly a lamentable one. Devastation reigned around, and not one of the many buildings escaped either total destruction or considerable damage. The dwelling house of Mr Wilks, one of the partners, was dreadfully shattered, as were also many houses three or four miles distant. After the Jury left the premises, they proceeded to the residence of Powell at Horton to view the body. On their way thither, they found the clothes of Hawkins at a distance of nearly three hundred yards from the mills. It was stated that the body was picked up at this spot. The unfortunate man must, therefore, have been blown over the river. After the Jury had performed this part of their melancholy task, they returned to the Bull and George Inn, where the following evidence was adduced :-

On their return, T Pearce, the foreman of the mills, was called in and sworn. He was in the dusting house, about a quarter of a mile from the mills, when the first explosion took place. He then stated as follows :- On hearing the explosion, I immediately hastened to the mills and, on entering the premises, discovered that scarcely a vestige was left either of the charge house or the packing house. There are nine mills altogether on the premises, six out of which number exploded. Williams was foreman of the packing room ; Hawkins was boatman ; Benning was generally employed in the packing house ; Powell was also employed there. Wenass, Pescott, Harding and

White were what was termed the packers of the powder. There were generally about a dozen women employed on the premises, but they were not all at work on the morning in question. When I got down to the premises there were four mills “blown”; the shock arising from the explosion of the lower charge house was the heaviest of the whole, the powder contained therein being of the full strength. I should think there were twenty barrels of powder in this charge room alone. In the upper charge house there were from eight to ten hundred pounds weight of powder. In the packing house, the explosion from which was a terrific one, there were about ten barrels of powder in a finished state, which was to have been sent to London the next morning. In the mill there were about five hundred pounds of powder. The granary, which was situated near the packing house, was blown away altogether. In answer to a question by a Juror, the witness said that blowing up of what is termed “a pair of stones” takes place occasionally, but is generally unattended with danger. Had the wind been in the direction of the magazine, in which there were deposited upwards of 30 barrels of powder, the damage would have been still greater. He could scarcely say whence the explosions originated – no smoking was allowed on the premises ; there were between 70 and 80 persons, men, women and children, working on the premises, all of whom were not engaged at the time. He had no doubt the explosion and loss of life were purely accidental.

J Halting heard ten different explosions follow each other in quick succession ; he was twice knocked down, but crawled under a work bench, and thence out of the place, bricks and tiles falling thick upon and about him.

J Hoare, waggoner, standing opposite the charge house, was knocked down, and two of his horses were killed, and a third so injured that it died soon afterwards.

F Exeter was brother-in-law to Powell, who had suffered amputation of the thigh ; he (witness) was in a boat near the magazine when the first explosion took place, and was blown completely into the water ; while in the water I received a severe blow on the head from some portion of the fragments of the building, upon which I immediately dived underneath, and kept under the surface as long as I possibly could. When I attempted to rise to fetch breath, I was struck again on the shoulder, and struck out myself for life and death until I got opposite the meadows, where I got on shore, after a most miraculous escape from fire and water.

Several other witnesses were examined, but nothing was elicited to show how the catastrophe originated.

Pearce, the foreman, was recalled, and he stated that an accident attended with the loss of life took place at the Dartford powder mills about five years ago. “Blows” were of frequent occurrence, but they were not attended with danger.

The surgeon who examined the bodies of the deceased described the dreadful state in which they appeared when he went to the mills. He also stated that he amputated the thigh of Powell, who received considerable injury in that part of his body ; he bore the operation with unexampled courage, but afterwards sunk from the effects of collapse produced by the accident.

This being the whole of the evidence adduced on the melancholy occasion, the Coroner addressed the Jury, observing that in general all cases of that description were involved in mystery as to the first cause of the explosion. He had no doubt the Jury had come to the conclusion that the explosions had arisen from the result of accident. No person could be guilty of such an act, which would draw down death upon themselves as well as those employed within the sphere of its influence. If the Jury had any suggestion to make, he should be happy to hear it.

The Jury unanimously expressed their opinion that the deceased persons were accidentally killed by the explosion at Dartford mills, and a verdict to that effect was accordingly returned.

On Thursday afternoon, seven of the unfortunate sufferers were interred in Dartford churchyard, and the millwright, Powell, at Wilmington (near Dartford) ; the number of persons who witnessed the melancholy processions was immense at both places.

38 October 23 1833

INQUEST BEFORE MR HENRY MOZLEY JUN On Saturday the 19th instant at Breadsall, on the body of **Thomas Wild**, a boatman, who had been drowned the evening before. He had been driving

the horse of a boat loaded with coals from Breadsall towards Derby, and when within 200 yards of the Lock near Little Eaton, he ran forward to open it. When the boat reached the lock, the deceased could not be found ; but it appeared that he had raised one of the paddles, and left his whip by the side. The canal was dragged as soon as implements could be procured, and the body of the deceased was found within the lock in the course of the evening. The jury had no doubt that the deceased had fallen into the canal while crossing over the gates, and returned a verdict of "Accidental death", accompanied by a recommendation to the Canal Company to widen the passage over the gates and to put up hand rails. This recommendation will be carried into effect.

39 April 30 1834

MURDER OF MR THOMAS ASHTON We stated last week that information had been received by means of which hopes were entertained that the perpetrators of this nefarious outrage would, at length, be brought to justice. Two men named **Mossley**, one of them a calico printer and the other a boatman, have been apprehended by the Stockport police, charged with the commission of the murder, upon the information of a man named James Gartside, who is now undergoing an imprisonment of eighteen months in Derby Gaol for a burglary committed in or near Marple. The two Mossleys are inhabitants of the latter place, and as well as their accuser, Gartside, are men of a bad reputation. After their apprehension, they were lodged in the prison at Stockport, where they have remained during the whole of the past week. Captain Clarke has examined them privately, but the nature of the evidence adduced has not transpired. There is, however, reason to hope that the active measures which are taking, and which have already been partially successful, will issue in the identification of the parties with the murder. It is of course necessary that the charges of Gartside should be borne out and corroborated by evidence less equivocal in its character ; but the production of such testimony, after an interval of upwards of three years, must be attended with no ordinary difficulty. Gartside will probably be conveyed to Stockport in the course of a few days, by direction of the Secretary of State, and it is to be hoped that the facts will then be rendered clear and more easy of confirmation. Mr Thomas Ashton was shot on the evening of the 3rd January 1831 on his way from his father's residence, Pole House, Werneth, to his factory at Apethorn. He was the eldest son of Mr Samuel Ashton, and from facts which transpired upon the inquest, it was surmised that the intended victim was his brother, Mr James Ashton (the manager of another of his father's factories), who had a short time previously given offence to some of his workpeople whom he discharged for misconduct, and for holding connection with a Trades' Union. The murder was committed at a quarter past seven in the evening, about which time three "biggish men" were seen lurking about the lane leading from Pole House to Apethorn, one of whom was observed to have a gun. A report of firearms was heard shortly afterwards, and two men were met running towards Hyde, and a third towards Gee Cross. Three individuals named Platt, Stanfield and Smith (the persons whom Mr James Ashton had discharged) were apprehended on suspicion, but were afterwards dismissed ; and other parties who were afterwards taken into custody were in a like manner liberated. Since that time, although very large rewards (£1000 to £1500) were offered, not the least light has been thrown on this mysterious business until last week. The great turn out of operative spinners at Ashton occurred shortly before this murder was committed, and the Grand National Trades' Union was then in its zenith. It was shown at the inquest, almost beyond the possibility of a doubt, that the murderers, whoever they might be, were mere hired assassins – the servants of the Unionists who deemed it necessary, as they said, to "make an example". There is now every reason to believe that the murderers received a sum of *ten pounds* for their services against Mr Ashton! Mr Howard, cotton spinner of Stayley Bridge, was shot at about the same time, and the lives of other persons were attempted in a similar manner. Probably the public may now obtain some decisive information as to the share which the Trades' Union actually did take in these outrages.

40 May 7 1834

JUSTICE ROOM, WIRKSWORTH, APRIL 20 **William Holmes**, a boatman late in the employ of

Messrs G Wheatcroft and Son, was convicted before F G Goodwin and Charles Clarke Esquires, in the penalty of 20s and costs, for an assault upon Mr Abraham Wheatcroft ; and in default of payment within 14 days, to be committed for one month and kept to hard labour.

41 May 14 1834

DEBATE ON SIR ANDREW AGNEW'S BILL We were unable in our last number to give the following excellent speeches in favour of Sir Andrew Agnew's Bill, delivered during the debate on the 30th of April, owing to their not having been reported in most of the London Papers.

Mr Plumptre said (amid loud cries of "Question, question") that he was not in the habit of troubling the House often, or at much length, but he claimed his right to address it for a few moments on the present very important question. The Hon Member for Derbyshire (Mr Gisborne) had talked of the cruelty that would be inflicted on the people of this great metropolis if the river Thames were closed to them on the Sabbath. He had talked also of the inconvenience to which he might be subjected, if travelling, from whatever cause on the Sabbath ; he might be stopped at Finchley Common or elsewhere, and told by the landlord that he could not allow his horses to proceed with him on that day. Hon Members had almost uniformly and, he might add marvellously, kept out of sight that the great principle of the Bill under discussion was that of protection, and that boatmen and postboys, and persons in such situations, were the very persons who required protection, and who in many instances had forwarded their prayers for protection to that House. He had been deeply pained by the light and sneering manner in which the Hon Member (Mr L Bulwer) had talked of the souls of journeymen fishmongers and bakers, as if the souls of these persons were of little or no value (Oh! Oh!), and forgetting, it appeared, the declaration of Him whose word and authority none ought to doubt, that one soul was of more value than the whole world. (Hear, hear. - Oh! Oh!) He would take the liberty of reading to the House (Oh! Oh!) a few remarks from a publication of an excellent and learned individual, the present Bishop of Calcutta. That Reverend Prelate writes :- "As to the mass of mankind, if the Sabbath be taken away from them, no time is left for religious duties for the worship of Almighty God, domestic piety, the instruction of children, the visiting of the sick and needy, the reading and hearing of the Gospel, the celebration of the Sacraments, the preparation for the rest of Heaven of which it is the pledge and foretaste". He (Mr Plumptre) believed this statement, and he would ask Hon Members whether they were prepared to deprive their fellow creatures of these advantages. He would ask them how they would be able to meet the charge that might on this account be brought against them on the great day? (Loud cries of Oh! Oh! particularly from Mr Roebuck and Mr O'Connell). How would they answer the accusations of their fellow creatures, "But for you, but for your restraint of my liberty, but for your depriving me of the advantages which the Sabbath was designed to convey on me, I might have been happy for ever, instead of being exposed to misery and despair". (Hear, hear. Oh! Oh! Question, question). He would not further intrude on the time of the House but, without saying that he was prepared to pass every clause of the Bill as it then stood, he did hope that the House would go into Committee upon it, and should therefore cordially vote for its second reading.

Mr A Johnston said he was glad that the country would have so favourable an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the sentiments of the Legislature upon so important a question as that now under discussion. They would form a right estimate of the manner in which the subject had been treated, and whether it had been considered with as much attention as it unquestionably demanded. The Right Hon Gentleman opposite (Mr Goulburn) had surely failed to recollect that the Bill of last Session was negatived only by a majority of six. It should also be recollected that another Bill had been brought forward after having been submitted to the scissors of an influential person ; but the support which it experienced from its professed friends was so lukewarm, and the opposition which it met with from those who considered it deficient in right principle was so strong as to induce the Hon Member for Bodmin to withdraw it altogether. He therefore submitted that his Hon Friend (Sir A Agnew) was justified in bringing the present Bill before the House, and pressing on their consideration the propriety of referring it to a Committee. (Cries of "Hear" and "Oh!"). After the great assiduity of his Honourable Friend, after the anxiety evinced on the subject by such a

numerous and respectable portion of the community, after the mass of evidence given on the matter, after the number of petitions presented during the last session signed by 270,000 persons, and the numerous petitions so recently presented by so many Hon Members, he could not imagine that the House would reject the proposal of going into committee upon it, with a view to correct the abuses that existed and the flagrant violation of the Sabbath which was so prevalent. If such should unfortunately happen, the country had only to judge of the disinclination of that House to protect the due observance of the Lord's Day from the open infractions that were committed upon it. (Cries of "Question"). He (Mr Johnston) was surprised that none of the metropolitan members had come forward to support the Bill ; for they were aware of the cruel system practised in the metropolis of obliging thousands of artisans to work on the Sabbath, and thus at once deprived of bodily rest and the advantages of religious instruction. Concerning the details of the Bill, he would offer but a few remarks (cries of "Oh! Oh!") and he would take care they should be very brief. He was grieved to find that the Hon Member for Derbyshire had treated the subject of the Bill with such undeserved and improper ridicule. That county presented a fine contrast to the conduct of its representative on that occasion ; and it was worthy of the admiration of the whole country. Every parish and township in that county showed the utmost anxiety on the subject, and poured in petitions to the House worded in the most earnest manner. He (Mr J) would not enter into the merits of the question on theological grounds, though challenged to do so by the Hon Members opposite. He would only advert to the statement of the Sacred Scriptures, that magistrates were set over the community as ministers of good ; and in this nicely balanced Constitution, he would maintain it to be the right of every Christian subject to call upon the Legislature to prevent the desecration of the Sabbath, and to protect him in the enjoyment of it as a day of rest. These important objects the Bill introduced by his Hon Friend was well calculated to accomplish ; and he hoped he would not adopt either of the suggestions made to him, of withdrawing the Bill or entrusting it to a Committee upstairs. The country had a right to know the manner in which the Bill might be dealt with by that House, and he had some experience of committees upstairs such as to prevent him advising the adoption of such a course – on the contrary, the country ought to see with their own eyes what was done with the Bill. He (Mr Johnston) was much mistaken. (Hear, Hear and much laughter). He would repeat he was much mistaken (renewed laughter) if the question which the Bill involved was not growing very rapidly into importance in the minds of the people ; Hon Gentlemen would perhaps learn that such was the case, when they next ascertained the sentiments of their constituents on the subject. He was also much deceived if the great majority of the respectable portion of the country was not in favour of the measure introduced by his Hon Friend.

Sir Andrew Agnew assured the House it was not his intention to detain them very long. He had not the power, through want of practice in public speaking, as well as from want of talent, to enter into a full reply to the several observations which had been made during the debate. First it was necessary to say to the Right Hon Member for Montgomery, who seemed to consider that he had been guilty of a want of courtesy to the House in bringing a second time a measure which had been once rejected. In reply, he would remark that the majority on a former occasion had only been six against him – that the question had been forced on at a late hour against his will, after several of his friends had gone away in the faith that it was to be postponed, and thereafter not less than thirty or forty members had expressed to him their regret at not being present to vote for the second reading. Since that period, numerous petitions and letters had been received expressive of the confidence of the country, and in approval of the Bill. Even many of the constituents of most of the Hon Members had done him the honour of writing to say that Petitions had been forwarded by their representatives, together with private letters urging the support of the Bill. Thus supported by the confidence of their constituents throughout the country, was he not warranted in obtruding himself again on their attention? Tonight the Bill had not been dealt with in very flattering terms, but it was the fact that every clause was supported by the Petitions on the table – either for the Bill in express terms, or by enumerating all its provisions with the intention of describing the details of the measure, every clause of which was framed to protect some one or other of the poorer classes ; nor could one clause be left out without throwing a particular class of men out of the protection of the

law. He did not use the terms rich and poor in the sense in which they had been employed tonight with reference merely to the great lord and the humblest mechanic ; but he was the poor man who was necessitated to work on the Lord's Day for another, and he was the rich man who employed him for his own profit, and thus was it viewed by the petitioners. Then, as to keeping up the public conveyances with a view to travelling in a supposed case of necessity ; it was altogether kept out of view that, on the chance of a case of necessity arising, all the men now employed in public travelling were to be condemned to perpetual toil on the Lord's Day and throughout their lives. If viewed from below, beginning with protection to the poorer classes, the whole Bill was a system of benevolence ; if viewed from above, with reference to the restraint laid on the upper classes to prevent their employing the poorer men to work for them on the Sunday, then the Bill undoubtedly was one of penalties towards the rich, and thence much of that opposition which had been this night expressed. The Members of the House had this night exhibited an extraordinary contrast between the zeal and anxiety of all to present petitions at the commencement of the evening, and the total disregard of the prayers of their constituents during the whole debate. The prayers of the poor who had been sentimentally alluded to were totally disregarded, nor at the end of two years did the Members seem to have read the evidence of the working classes themselves. He (Sir A Agnew) had not forced himself into this question ; it had been forced on his attention by the Petitions of the traders who represented their grievances. A Select Committee was granted to him ; the tradesmen were forward to give their evidence and state their own opinions, yet, even now, none within the House seemed to have made themselves acquainted with the facts, nor was it in his power, by a few minutes' discussion, to make them acquainted with the contents of a large volume. He had reserved a few petitions to read in the House from various trades, who knew best their own interests ; amongst others, from butchers, bakers, bargemen, &c, &c., from several coach proprietors, and from all the coachmen and other servants in their employ ; but he saw that it was in vain to attempt to fix attention, or to enter into the several details. The House being impatient after a long debate, he should move the second reading of the Bill and divide the House.

SIR ANDREW AGNEW'S BILL The following Reasons in favour of its second reading were sent to every Member of the House of Commons previous to the debate on Sir Andrew Agnew's Bill.

There are two obvious principles upon which the Bill proceeds :-

First, the duty of a Christian Government to prevent all open violation of the Commandment of God, requiring **THAT NO WORK AT ALL SHALL BE DONE ON THE SABBATH DAY.**

Second, the duty of affording **UNIVERSAL PROTECTION TO ALL CLASSES OF THE COMMUNITY** ; so that none shall be compelled to violate the Divine Commandment, but that **EVERY MAN** shall have the Sabbath entirely to himself.

It is the duty of a Christian Government to prevent the **OPEN PROFANATION** of the Lord's Day ; and thereby to acknowledge the authority of God, from whom alone the authority of all earthly rulers is derived.

It is their duty also to provide means of Religious Instruction for the People. This provision is accordingly made by our Church Establishment ; but if the means thus provided are to be of any use, the State must also secure to its subjects an uncontrolled freedom from labour on the Sabbath Day, as the only season in which the great body of the people can have sufficient time and opportunity for the Public Worship of God, and for obtaining religious instruction.

The Government owes **TO ALL ITS SUBJECTS** the **UNIVERSAL PROTECTION** which this Bill would afford. The People have a right to be protected in respect of **THEIR TIME**, as well as in respect of their persons and property. If this protection is not given, the consequence is that the Working Classes **MUST WORK SEVEN DAYS** in every week in order to obtain that which they would otherwise earn in six.

Almighty God has given to man this Day of Rest, as necessary to the wellbeing both of his body and soul ; but a large portion of the community must either lose their means of livelihood or give up the advantages of Sabbath rest, unless **ALL** are restrained by law from following worldly occupations on that day.

The only reasons upon which any partial measure of legislation can be advocated will be found to

exist for an extension of the rule to all other cases ; and unless these general principles shall be adopted and acted upon, nothing of any real value can be done.

The framer of the present Bill could not, therefore, with any just regard, either to the cause of Religion or the general protection and welfare of the whole community, do otherwise than he has done in presenting the measure to the House in its present form. The Bill is intended to prohibit every kind of worldly occupation, by which either OPEN CONTEMPT of the authority of God would be manifested, OR ANY PORTION OF THE PEOPLE BE NECESSARILY DEPRIVED OF THE SABBATH REST.

In taking this broad ground, the principles above stated are recognised in their full extent ; and it will be thereafter for the wisdom of Parliament to determine WHAT ARE THE PARTICULAR EXCEPTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE ADMITTED. It is evidently only in Committee that exceptions can with any advantage be introduced and determined upon, after their precise nature shall have been explained, and the grounds on which they are proposed shall have been duly investigated.

For these reasons, and IN DEFERENCE TO THE ALMOST UNIVERSAL WISHES OF THE NATION so generally expressed both during the present and the last Session of Parliament, it is hoped that a cordial assent will be given by the House of Commons to the Second Reading of the Bill.

42 August 6 1834

PEAK FOREST CANAL At the Stockport Police Office on Wednesday, **John Parkes** of Whaley, boatman, was charged with having on the 21st of July allowed his boat, in passing through the seventh lock of the Peak Forest Canal at Marple, to strike against and damage the top of the lock. Mr Meadows appeared on behalf of the company, and said that under the Peak Forest Canal Company's Act, the defendant was liable to a penalty of £5, but on the recommendation of the Magistrate, the defendant, who admitted the fact, agreed to make a submission and pay the costs.

William Grant of Whaley, another boatman in the service of the company, was charged with having on the 17th July drawn the paddle of the upper gate of the 13th lock in the above canal before the lower gates were shut, thereby causing considerable waste of water. The defendant pleaded guilty, but said that he was asleep in the cabin at the time, and that his men were the offenders. However, Grant was amenable to the company, and he was fined 20s.

43 March 11 1835

ACCIDENT AT MARPLE At Marple on Monday se'nnight week, a boatman of the name of **Moore** lost his life in consequence of being blown into one of the locks of the canal ; his horse also shared a similar fate. An inquest was held over him on Wednesday, before Mr Hollins, coroner, and a verdict of accidental death was returned.

44 September 2 1835

During the thunderstorm on Tuesday the 25th ult, a boatman of the name of **Samuel Tansey**, of Shardlow, met with a fatal accident while at work in a boat of his employers (Messrs Sutton and Co) on the Trent near Hazleford Ferry. The poor fellow was near the mast pole, which owing to a heavy gust of wind suddenly broke, and the upper part of the mast fell upon his head and dashed out his brains. He has left a wife and five children to deplore their loss.

45 October 28 1835

DERBYSHIRE MICHAELMAS SESSIONS **Thomas Wilshaw**, aged 28, and **Thomas Leck**, aged 40, were charged with stealing a variety of articles of hardware at Cromford, the property of Samuel Shaw.

The prosecutor was examined by Mr G Arkwright, from whose evidence it appeared that he was at the Cock Inn at Cromford on the 12th September, and the articles mentioned in the indictment were in a box in the stable. He afterwards found that it had been broken open and the goods in question

taken away. From some suspicion which he entertained, he asked the prisoner Leck to let him, with a constable, search his boat, which was readily assented to and the goods were found there. It also appeared from the statement of the landlady that Leck had a horse in the same stable in which the box was placed ; that both the prisoners were at her house on the night of the 12th, and that about midnight Wilshaw, who assisted the boatmen and who had the privilege of sleeping in the boats when thus employed, went out, and remained absent about an hour. On his return, he and Leck went away together to go to the boat. The constable also bore testimony to the willingness which Leck had shown to have his boat searched.

William Kitchen, a labourer, proved that Wilshaw gave him a knife on the 13th September, on Cromford Bridge. This knife was owned by the prosecutor, and the other articles found in the boat, which were produced in court, were identified by him. There being no evidence that Leck had any guilty knowledge of the articles being in his boat, the court directed his acquittal, but the jury found Wilshaw guilty, and he was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

46 November 11 1835

INQUESTS BEFORE MR WHISTON JUN, CORONER On Friday last an inquest was held at Ockbrook, in this county, before Mr Whiston jun, Coroner, on the body of **Thomas Thacker**, aged fourteen years, whose death was occasioned by his falling into the canal in the parish of Ockbrook, whilst he was winding up a paddle belonging to one of the locks. The jury, after proceeding to view the body, also examined some of the paddles belonging to the canal, which they considered dangerous in consequence of the person having to wind up the same being obliged to do so over the water instead of over the land, and in the latter case in any accident happened, the person would fall upon the bank instead of falling into the water. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death", and at the same time requested that a communication might be made to the Canal Company to alter the paddles which are wound up over the water, which communication has been made.

And on Tuesday (yesterday), another inquest was held before the same Coroner at Trent Lock in the parish of Long Eaton, on the body of **Joseph Saxton**, who was found in the canal. The deceased was a boatman, and had been seen about half past ten o'clock on the Saturday night before, at which time he was going to his boat, but did not arrive there, and he was found by a person who was dragging for coals in the canal on Monday morning last. There appearing no evidence how the deceased got in the water, the jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

47 December 9 1835

ROBBERY ON THE PEAK FOREST CANAL On Saturday week, Irving and McMullen, two of the police officers of Manchester, were employed to search a boat belonging to Messrs Hibbertson and Co, carriers, which was lying at the Piccadilly Wharf, in consequence of a quantity of spirits having been stolen on their transit from Manchester to Chapel-en-le-Frith, whence they were to be carried to Sheffield by land. No spirits were found in the boat, but a bag containing about 100 lbs of malt was found in the cabin, and as the officers thought the account given of it by the two men on board (**Philip Gavins** and **Thomas Rigby**) was unsatisfactory, they took them into custody. It was subsequently ascertained that a cargo of 108 sacks of malt had been brought by the prisoners from Chapel-en-le-Frith, having been sent to that place by Mr Baker of Chesterfield, and on examining the sacks it was found that several of them had been cut open, and small quantities of malt taken from each. The whole quantity missed from the sacks was about equal to that found in the cabin of the boat, and on comparing the two they were found to be of the same quality. The prisoners were brought up at the New Bailey, Manchester, on Wednesday last, when they said in their defence that the malt found in the cabin was some which had fallen from a sack which was torn on the railway at Bugsworth, and they had put it into the cabin to dry. This statement was distinctly sworn to be false by the man who had the care of the malt while on the railway, and he proved that not more than one quart of malt was lost when the sack was torn. It was also proved that when the sacks were delivered to the prisoners, none of them were cut as they were when received at Messrs Hibbertson's warehouse. The prisoners were committed for trial. An attempt was made to establish

a charge against another boatman named **Ormerod Oddie** for stealing the spirits of which the officers were in search when they found the malt, but the evidence was not sufficient, and Oddie was discharged.

48 May 4 1836

OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH On Friday there was a numerously attended meeting of the Friends and Supporters of the Society for Preserving the due Observance of the Sabbath at Exeter Hall, the Lord Bishop of London in the chair, who, though labouring under indisposition, made no scruple to preside at a Public Meeting assembled to promote the glory of their REDEEMER and the worship of the MOST HIGH. The Right Rev Prelate said the Society had just reason to be thankful that upon this subject England was an example to the whole of the nations of Europe. Let them compare the observance of the Sabbath in the British Empire, and the fearful extent to which its desecration went in other countries. Protestant countries were characterised by their devout observance of the Sabbath. Many were ignorant of, while many knew the extent to which Infidelity and Liberalism prevailed in that great country with which they were so many years at war, but were now bound in terms of amity and alliance. They ought to show how they valued that alliance by bringing its people to the sense of true religion. The desecration of the Sabbath was at once a consequence and a cause of a fearful state of impiety. The test of the extent of Gospel Truth in any country was the manner in which the Lord's Day was observed. Let them set the example to Continental nations, so as to lead the way to the introduction of sound principles of true religion, the only security for the prosperity and happiness of nations, and the peace of the world. The Reverend Prelate proceeded to say that he could not congratulate them upon the measures which the Government of a Christian country should take to promote the due observance of the Lord's Day, nor was there an immediate prospect of the want that was felt being supplied. It had been said that the question was one that presented difficulty, and required caution and circumspection. He wished that the only difficulties they had to encounter were the caution and circumspection necessary in applying the remedy that was asked at the hands of the Legislature. If these were the only obstacles, they must soon see justice done to the question, and that too without injustice to the inhabitants of any part of the country. He did not wonder that infidels used the weapons of abuse ; but it was fearful to see men stand up in the Great Councils of the nation – and who, not content with opposing measures for the due observance of the Sabbath by legislative interference, should also stand up and deride a subject which all men ought to respect. Why did he allude to this subject? Because in exact proportion to their efforts was the opposition of those who were adverse to them. The Rev Prelate then stated that he had a scheme for increasing the number of places of worship in the metropolis. He stated that upon Sundays neither he nor any others of the Prelates ever used their carriages except they were engaged in works of charity. He concluded by declaring that the Society might always calculate upon his utmost exertions to promote the objects for which it was embodied.

The Rev Mr Sim read the report of the Society for the past year, from which it appeared that its receipts were £812, its expenditure £740, and the amount of its engagements £363.

Sir Oswald Mosley, in moving that the report be printed, pressed upon the Society the necessity of perseverance, and treated with contempt the scorn and abuse which had been lavished on him and his Hon Friend (Sir A Agnew) ; and he would assure them that he was not to be deterred from his duty by any shafts of ridicule that might be flung against him. In allusion to the opposition of the “Great Agitator”, who had allied himself to a party that had little fear of God before their eyes, and who thought no legislative interference was necessary on the subject, said that Hon Member differed from one to whom he was bound to pay implicit obedience – the Pope himself. The Pope, on the 28th of February last, issued a decree against the desecration of the Sabbath. The Pope went nearly as far as the Hon Member on the platform beside him (Sir A Agnew). He thought it interesting to find that in other beside a Christian Protestant country the due observance of the Sabbath was sought to be enforced. Now, in Rome itself, the Pope would not be obeyed in this respect. A commotion was the consequence of seeking to enforce the decree, and such was the

alarm created, that the Pope on Monday recalled the decree that he had made on Saturday – so much for the infallibility of the Pope's decree. In England they had no reason to apprehend commotion, although they might encounter scorn. He then proceeded to say that he did not think the measure now before the House would pass this Session. But let them not be discouraged, let them go on, and let them by their example prove that they were not hypocrites.

The Rev G Cubitt of the Wesleyan Methodists seconded the resolution. He remarked that after the decree of the Pope, he expected to find the whole band of the Roman Catholic Members joining with and marching under the banners of Sir Andrew Agnew. (Cheers). He remarked that the opposition to Sunday legislation was assuming an infidel character. Ridicule had been resorted to against Sabbath legislation, and “Drunken Barnaby” had been plagiarised for the purpose. Now he therefore must state that he never could hear Mr O'Connell's name mentioned for the future that he would not think of Drunken Barnaby. (Cheers and laughter).

The Bishop of Chester said that those who opposed Sabbath legislation should be designed as conspirators, and of them it might truly be said theirs was a conspiracy of the rich, the luxurious, the avaricious and the dissolute against the poor. The poor called for relief, and as a proof, he read an address from the boatmen on the Irwell and Mersey Navigation, thanking their employers for relieving them from labour on the Sunday.

Sir Andrew Agnew remarked that this Society was not formed merely for the purpose of procuring a better observance of the Sabbath by legislation, but by every means to enforce that most desirable object. He should wish that the example set by those who heard him would render legislation unnecessary. The Hon Baronet then proposed that they might have a doxology before the meeting concluded.

The wish was complied with, after which the assembly dispersed.

49 May 25 1836

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LORD'S DAY BILL Sir Andrew Agnew rose to move the second reading of the Lord's Day Bill, and a number of petitions in favour of it were laid on the table. He was well aware that there was great reluctance to listen to his observations in that House ; but he was happy to think that no similar reluctance prevailed out of it, to do justice to this important topic. A considerable popular error had been promulgated with respect to the object of his Bill, which had been represented as framed by him to coerce the poor and not the rich. (Hear, hear). If, however, they took the trouble to look into its provisions, and inquire into its probable effects, they would learn that such was not likely to be the results attending its operation. The clauses had, on the contrary, been framed with special attention to the protection they would afford to the labourer, and to save him from compulsory toil on the Sabbath. (Ironical cheers). The Hon Gentleman opposite who indulged in such pleasantries at his mode of effecting this object (which was on all hands allowed to be so desirable) might have some more applicable scheme in his pocket, but he (Sir Andrew Agnew) could not devise a better. The technical manner in which the Bill was brought up appeared also to alarm several Hon Members, but this was the result of extensive consideration, to meet a variety of pressing considerations. He referred to the petitions which crowded the table ; some from the fish market men and poulterers, from the inhabitants of Chelsea, the waggoners of the great western road, and the boatmen on the canals, as the best proof he could offer of the interest the industrious classes took in forwarding the object of the Lord's Day Bill. The latter class declared that they were altogether deprived of any opportunity of moral and religious instruction. Last year, petitions had come from some hundreds of them in favour of it.

Mr Plumptre said that every class of the community had expressed their wish that the House would afford them protection on the Lord's Day, and enable them to rest from their fatiguing labours. But this was the lowest ground on which the principle of the Bill could be defended. In legislating for the West India slaves, they preserved for their use part of Saturday and the whole of Sunday. (Hear). There were other considerations necessary to be acted on than those involved in the authority of the fourth commandment. Other commandments had additional influence imparted to

them by the force of human laws. Legislators did not suffer the murderer to escape unpunished. His Hon Friend would bring the subject again and again before the House, till he obtained protection for the people on the Lord's Day.

Mr G H Ward considered this a most objectionable and inconsistent measure. If the public ought to be bound by the letter of the 4th Commandment, then the Bill was a bad Bill, and the spirit in which it was framed was not an honest one ; for there was no such exemption in that Commandment as was contained in the 26th clause of the Bill, which permitted servants to work. It was doubtless desirable that Sunday should be a day of rest and recreation, a day of cessation from toil and trouble, to the working classes. But how did the Hon Baronet propose to provide for their relaxation? He took every precaution to deprive them of all means of locomotion. He shut them up in narrow streets, from which no omnibus or wherry dare attempt to convey them to the fresh air of the country. They had no means of escape by land or water from the pains and penalties of the Bill. (Hear). It was not a Bill to coerce the rich – it was a Bill that told with tenfold hardship on the poor. It deprived them of the right of purchase on Sundays, although half the industrious classes habitually bought their week's provision on that day. If shut out of the city markets, they sought to procure refreshments in the country, the penalties of the Bill again stared the dealers in the face, and left the hungry customers no remedy. The Hon Baronet had proposed what was decidedly impracticable. How was it possible to prevent the sailing of ships on Sunday, or to enter into all various details contained in the Hon Baronet's Bill? He should move that the Bill be read that day six months.

Captain Pechell said it was quite impossible to modify this Bill so as to make it a tolerable one. From most of the fishing ports, the fishing boats sailed on Sunday afternoon, the fishermen coming in on the Saturday to enable them to perform their religious duties. The Hon Baronet's Bill would put a stop to the whole of the fisheries of this country.

Colonel Thompson denied that there was any authority in the Christian Scriptures for the imposition of a Jewish Sabbath.

Mr Aglionby opposed the Bill.

Mr Shaw would vote for the second reading, because although he objected to many of the clauses of the Bill, some legislation on the subject was required.

Lord A Lennox would vote for the second reading on the same grounds.

Mr Pryme was favourable to some legislation on the subject, but would not support such a Bill as this.

Major C Bruce deprecated some of the clauses of the Bill, but thought it ought to go into Committee.

Mr H Hughes thought that the Bill ought to be read a second time.

Sir S Canning was favourable to the principle of the Bill, but could not go the length of its provisions.

Lord J Russell had voted for the introduction of the Bill, and would not therefore vote against the second reading if he thought it could be amended in Committee ; but the whole Bill, from beginning to end, was so objectionable that hardly a clause could be expected to be adopted, and it was therefore useless to read it a second time. He must add that such indiscreet attempts were calculated to prejudice, by casting ridicule upon the object which the Hon Baronet had himself in view.

Mr A Johnstone defended the Bill.

Mr C Barclay could not vote for the second reading of a Bill, to almost every clause of which almost every Member had objected.

Mr Hardy thought that the Bill ought to be read a second time.

Sir A Agnew replied.

The whole discussion was interrupted by repeated cries of “Question, question”, “Divide, divide”.

The House then divided, when appeared :-

For the Bill.....	43
For the Amendment.....	75
Majority for the Amendment	32

50 February 1 1837

On the 11th ult at midnight, during the high water, a boat belonging to Mr John Rice, laden with iron, was accidentally sunk at Gainsburgh, near Mr Flowers's wharf, by which a boatman about 60 years of age named **John Proffitt**, of Castle Donington, lost his life. He and a youth were in bed in the cabin at the time the boat began to fill with water ; the youth fortunately escaped.

51 March 1 1837

JUSTICE ROOM, WIRKSWORTH Mr Paterson, agent to the Comford Canal Company, appeared before the sitting magistrates on Tuesday the 21st February, having previously summoned a boatman of the name of **Alexander Bradley**, of High Edge, to answer to a charge made by Mr Paterson of his having thrown into a certain part of the canal a boat load of rubbish or dirt. The fact was clearly proved and the defendant convicted in the mitigated penalty of two pounds and costs ; and in default of payment, a distress warrant to be issued ; and if no effects, to be committed to the House of Correction for one month.

52 June 28 1837

OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S DAY A most gratifying instance of the desire of the working classes to have the rest of the Lord's Day secured to them has lately occurred at Etruria Wharf in the Staffordshire Potteries where, in the course of a few days, 715 wharfingers and boatmen employed on the Grand Trunk Canal, and labouring on the Sabbath almost as much as on other days, gladly and anxiously petitioned Parliament for the prevention of all unnecessary travelling and traffic on that day.

53 August 1 1838

DERBYSHIRE SUMMER ASSIZES Samuel Finney, aged 21, and John Ball, aged 26, were charged with stealing at Swarkestone one mare, the property of **Richard Snow**.

Elisha Jerram (a boy) stated that he lived at Swarkestone ; that the prosecutor is his father-in-law ; and that on Sunday July 15th he was sent with the mare into a field to watch her ; that in the afternoon about three o'clock the prisoner Finney came to him, and after asking the road to Swarkestone, forcibly took away the mare, saying "he would have her". Witness tried to prevent prisoner taking away the mare but could not, and then went and told his father-in-law what had happened. Cross-examined : The prisoner Finney was a little tipsy at the time ; did not see the other prisoner Ball.

Joseph Sharp saw, on the Sunday afternoon named, the two prisoners on the back of a mare, about a mile from Snow's field.

Charles Adams, an innkeeper at Swarkestone, met Mr Higgott and Snow, who were in pursuit of the prisoners, and he accompanied them. When within a mile of Ashby, they saw them, then walking. Witness seized Finney, who refused to go back to Smisby with him. He denied having ridden the mare, but there were marks upon his trousers which showed this was not true. The other prisoner, Ball, was seized by a person named Foster. Finney then said – on a constable being sent for – that they had turned the mare up in a lane, and that the reason why they took her from the boy was, they were tired, and wanted to get home to Ibstock in Leicestershire, having come from Bullbridge. The mare was afterwards found, and was lame, and had lost two shoes, being also greatly exhausted with hard riding. Cross-examined : Finney never objected to say where he was going, nor from whence he came.

Richard Snow, the prosecutor, is a boatman living at Swarkestone. Hearing that his mare was taken away, he went after her, and found her in a person's stable where she had been taken on being recovered. She was much distressed with hard riding, lame, and had cast two shoes ; and was unable to travel, except very slowly. Cross-examined : Has said, he did not think the prisoners meant to steal the mare, or they would not have taken her away in the manner they did.

Other similar evidence being given, the prisoners' counsel submitted that the whole affair was only a freak – an impudent one certainly – that the prisoners only took the mare to further them on their

journey – and that the circumstance entirely negated all intention to steal. The learned counsel called two witnesses who gave both prisoners an excellent character, and the jury gave in a verdict of Not Guilty.

The prisoners were then discharged, after a timely caution from the Judge not to practice such tricks in future.

54 December 12 1838

PETTY SESSIONS, BURTON-UPON-TRENT At the Petty Sessions held at Burton-on-Trent on Thursday last, three boatmen were committed for trial to Stafford County Gaol, charged with stealing a quantity of ale from several casks entrusted to their care, belonging to Messrs Bass and Co.

55 April 17 1839

BOROUGH EASTER SESSIONS Mary Hind, aged 22, charged with stealing from the person, on the 25th day of March at the parish of All Saints, one piece of current gold coin of the realm, called a sovereign, and two pieces of the current silver coin of this realm, called half crowns, the property of **William Thompson**.

The prosecutor is a boatman, and was robbed by the prisoner – a woman of the town – on the night of the 25th March in the Morledge. The money was found upon her, and her defence was that the man gave her a sovereign in mistake, between some half pence. A policeman proved the fact of the money being in the prisoner's possession, and said that the boatman, though not drunk, was “a little in liquor”. Guilty. Transported for 10 years, the law making the term imperative.

56 May 15 1839

DESIRE OF BOATMEN NOT TO WORK ON THE SABBATH DAY At Shardlow in this county, one hundred and forty boatmen have petitioned the Trent and Mersey Canal Company to close the Canal on the Lord's Day. All the respectable inhabitants of the surrounding parishes are signing a similar request. Many of the boatmen are beginning to feel very anxious for the privileges of the Sabbath of which they have hitherto been deprived. The Rev John Davies of Runcorn states, “I addressed about 50 watermen some time ago at one of their stations, some of whom had not entered any place of worship for thirty years! A man died at that station who declared he had never heard of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! Last week, I saw a man who for forty years had not had one sabbath to himself! When a person remarked, “I feel sorry for you”, he replied, “If *you* feel sorry, how ought *I* to feel?”

57 June 26 1839

CHARGE OF THE MURDER OF A FEMALE BY BOATMEN AT RUGELEY Considerable excitement has been created at Rugeley and the neighbourhood, in consequence of the dead body of a female being found on Monday morning last at five o'clock in the Trent and Mersey Canal, at a place called Brindley's Brook near the aqueduct at Colton, supposed to have been murdered by some part of the crew of one of Pickford's boats, by which she was travelling as a passenger. The unfortunate deceased was about thirty years of age, of small stature, active habits, and not of unprepossessing appearance. There is some reason to suppose that she was connected with the stage, but whether she had been to Manchester to fulfil any engagement does not appear. From letters which have been found in her trunks, it seems that she was married to a person named Collins, residing at No 10 Edgeware Road ; and, in the course of conversation during the voyage, it was ascertained that she was on her way to join her husband in London when the melancholy occurrence transpired. From the expressive manner in which she was heard to utter the name of her husband several times during the voyage, it might be inferred that she was passionately attached to him. It would seem that her voyage by canal conveyance was an alternative to which she had been driven in consequence of the very low state of her funds. The captain of the boat, **James Owen** ; two boatmen, **George Thomas alias Dobell** and **William Ellis alias Lambert**, and a boy, **William**

Mustod (these four forming the crew of the boat), were taken into custody on suspicion. On Tuesday last, an inquest was held on the body at the Talbot Inn, Rugeley, before Robert Fowke Esq, Coroner, and a very respectable jury. The inquest was to be resumed on Monday to allow time to procure other witnesses who may throw some additional light on this lamentable occurrence.

58 July 24 1839

COUNTY SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE DUE OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S DAY The annual meeting of this Society was held at the Lancastrian School Room in Derby on Monday evening last, and although great numbers of the influential friends of the Society are absent from the neighbourhood at this season of the year, the room was crowded with a most respectable and attentive audience. The Rev J G Howard, Vicar of St Michael's, was in the chair. After Prayer for the Divine Blessing on the proceedings of the meeting, the Secretary, the Rev William Leeke, stated what had been the Society's operations during the last year. Sir George Crewe, Bart, Sir Matthew Blakiston, Bart, and E S Chandos-Pole Esq had consented to become Vice Presidents of the Society. A Memorial had been promoted from 140 of the Shardlow boatmen, and another from the influential inhabitants of the surrounding parishes, praying the Trent and Mersey Navigation to set the boatmen free from their Sabbath labour. Memorials had been forwarded to the Lords of the Treasury and to the Postmaster General, from the Committee and from several of the large towns of the county, urging the discontinuance of the running of the mail and the delivery of letters on the Lord's Day. An equal number of Petitions had been forwarded, praying that the present laws relating to the Sabbath might be enforced, as far as they were effective, and where they were not so, that they might be amended, so that all classes of persons throughout the kingdom might have the Lord's Day secured to them as a day of rest.

59 July 24 1839

"BREAKING BULK" ON CANALS The following facts drawn from a recently published report of the Commissioners for inquiring into the best means of establishing a Constabulary force throughout England and Wales may prove interesting to our readers, particularly at Shardlow and Castle Donington. "Plundering the cargoes of passage boats on the canals has hitherto formed a great branch of modern thieving. Owing to the number of small tunnels through which the boats on canals have to pass, the goods are covered with a tarpaulin instead of having a hatchway over them. The "art and mystery" of abstraction has accordingly been extensively practised from the captains of these boats down to the humblest labourer on the banks or about the locks. Mr Pickford of the firm of Pickford and Co says, "They can pilfer from a bale of silk almost, if not quite, without its being known ; they can take out of a bale of silk just one hank, without undoing the stitches, and it makes a very trifling deviation in the weight which can hardly be detected. Then with tea. If they have a large lot of tea on board, they just make a little sort of break in the corner of the chest ; a tea chest is never without some sort of break ; and they take a handful out of one and a handful out of another". The packages that go aboard of these boats are packed by hydraulic presses, and so firm as to form an arch, so that the centre, when drawn out, will not decrease the bulk of the whole. The boatmen rob the packages in a most ingenious manner ; taking impressions of the seals on corks, and resealing ; matching the cord with which the packages are secured ; the captain of the boat generally keeping an assortment of cord for that purpose, and stopping at convenient places for the purpose of "*breaking bulk*". "When", says a depredator, "we took wine or spirits, we knocked a hoop aside and made a hole for letting out the liquor, and one on the other for letting in air ; when we had taken what we wanted, we put water in to make it up, and pegged up the holes and replaced the hoop. We had a borer for drawing sugar or dry goods ; we slipped the hoop and made a hole under it, and took what we liked". "As an honest labourer", says another depredator, "for factory work I got eleven shillings and thirteen shillings ; but while I was boating, I made fifteen shillings per trip by taking goods out of packages. I have cleared five pounds in a week by depredations". And another says, "When boating, I always took a little every journey. The highest sum I got was £25 one trip. The whole crew were engaged in depredations, and I did as my companions did, and

took all sorts of goods, which were sold to different receivers on the canal. If we got one half for it, we thought well ; the captain was the salesman, and used to have two shares for his trouble and risk, he having to make all deficiencies good”. “We never feared anything”, adds another, “for there are no constables on the canals. There are a few bank riders on the canals, but the driver gives us the signal, and we get the cloth down and make all right”.

60 March 11 1840

SABBATH OBSERVANCE

SUNDAY TRADING ON CANALS The following circulars have been lately issued :-

Several suggestions having been made to the Committee of the Lancaster Canal to endeavour to prevent trading upon the canal on Sundays, they respectfully request you will give directions to your boatmen to refrain from such a practice, as being alike injurious to the boatmen and to the interests of the traders. The Lancaster Canal Company have for many years closed their lockage on Sundays, and their packets also are stopped on that day.

S GREGSON

61 April 8 1840

SUNDAY TRADING ON CANALS

RUGELEY Our readers will most probably recollect that some time ago a meeting, numerously and respectably attended, was held here for the purpose of adopting the best means of reclaiming the degraded class of men who, their avocations lending to a constant desecration of the Sabbath, and being without the means of moral and religious instruction, had for years been a pest to society. In pursuance of a resolution of this meeting, addresses, signed not only by the inhabitants of Rugeley but by the neighbourhood generally, were presented to fourteen carriers plying on the Grand Trunk Canal ; and we regret to say that only one answer has been returned to the Rev D T Atkinson, the Vicar, who was deputed to forward the addresses. The following is from Messrs Robins and Co :-

London Wall, February 4th 1840

Reverend Sir – In acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Inhabitants of Rugeley and its neighbourhood, on the 18th of October last, bearing your signature, we beg to assure you that we, as constituting one of the principal carrying houses in London, fully respond to the sentiments they express.

It has long been the subject of our anxious wish, that all Sunday traffic upon the canals on which we trade should be put a stop to ; but, whilst seriously turning our attention to the best means of effecting so desirable an object, we have been met with so many difficulties that we have almost despaired of success. Without for one moment assuming that the want of general cooperation on the part of the carriers can furnish an argument, in a moral point of view, for an individual continuance in the practice, we cannot avoid the conviction that not even a partial remedy of the evil can be effected, unless all combine to put an end to it ; indeed, we feel certain that if a few only of the boatmen were permitted to suspend their progress upon the canals during the hours of the Sabbath, they would not only spend them in idleness and drunkenness themselves, but would (if merely for want of occupation) lead others into the commission of the same vices, and compromise at the same time the interest and property of their employers. As Christian men, Sir, we deeply deplore that such a state of things should exist, and we earnestly desire that an effectual termination should be put to it, and we will most cordially concur in any means that can be suggested for that end ; at the same (time), we take the liberty of observing that a suspension of the traffic will, we fear, fail to produce any alleviation of the evil, unless provision be in the first instance made for the religious instruction and employment of the men ; the want of it will inevitably increase the amount of immorality and profaneness, not limited to themselves but spreading its contagion to all in their neighbourhood with whom they may come in contact. Whilst under these circumstances expressing our fears that your benevolent and Christian exertions will fail to bring about the main object of

your circulars, that of producing an impression sufficiently strong to induce a general determination among the carriers to unite in suppressing the cause of complaint ; permit us to suggest to you the propriety of making an urgent appeal to the Directors of the several Canal Companies to make it compulsory, by closing all their locks at twelve o'clock on Saturday night. But even this step, if adopted, would be ineffectual unless followed up by subsequent measures on the part of the carriers; and would not meet the difficulty we have previously referred to ; at all events, it would be the commencement of a good work, which if not carried out by the latter under the influence of a higher principle, must be so under a regard to their own interest. We do not apologise to you, Sir, for troubling you with these opinions. We earnestly desire that all in our employ should partake of the blessings of the Sabbath ; and whatever we can do to promote with effect a duty of so paramount a nature, will be done by every means in our power.

We remain, Reverend Sir,
Your most obedient humble servants,
ROBINS AND CO.

THE BOATMEN The Rev Frank Hewson of Worcester having applied to the Bishop of Lichfield in behalf of the neglected watermen, received the following kind reply :-

London, March 23 1840

Dear Sir – I thank you most sincerely for drawing my attention, as you have done, to the case of the boat and barge men of my diocese.

So long as I am obliged to stay in London, I fear I shall be able to do little ; but as soon as I get into the diocese I shall endeavour to devise some means of providing for the spiritual wants of that most neglected body of men ; and for that purpose I shall bear in mind the suggestions you have been so kind as to offer. I am truly glad to hear what you say of Lord F Egerton's exertions to put a stop to Sunday labour.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully and obliged,
J LICHFIELD

About four years ago, the Proprietors of the Derby Canal passed a resolution to close that navigation during the whole of the Lord's Day. We trust that, at their approaching General Meeting, they will take steps to enforce compliance with their orders in this respect, as hitherto they have not been properly attended to.

62 April 29 1840

NAVIGATION FROM THE TRENT TO THE MERSEY

Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of an Act of Parliament passed in the first year of the reign of King William the fourth, chap 55, that on and after the First day of June next, there will be demanded and taken, for and in respect of all Uncalcined Iron Ore which shall be conveyed upon the said navigation, the sum of one Halfpenny per Ton per Mile, and that there will continue to be demanded and taken, for and in respect of all Calcined Iron Ore, the sum of Three Farthings per Ton per Mile.

HENRY MOORE

Principal Agent to the said Company
Navigation Office, Stone, 22nd April 1840

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 22nd April 1840

Petitions numerously and most respectably signed having been presented, praying that this Company will use their influence and exertions to put a stop to all traffic along the line of this navigation on the Lord's Day.

This General Assembly, deeply impressed with the great importance of a due observance of the

Sabbath day, and desirous to promote, as far as is practicable, the views and wishes stated in the petitions above referred to ;

Resolved unanimously – That no wharfinger, or other person in the employ of this Company, do transact any business at their respective wharfs, warehouses, offices or elsewhere, or allow the Company's cranes to be used on the Lord's day, except in cases of the most urgent necessity.

That all wharfingers and others in the employ of this Company be, and they are hereby required to resort to some place of public worship on the Lord's day.

That all persons employed on the line of this navigation do vigilantly watch the conduct of persons navigating boats on the Canal, and of their steerers, drivers and attendants ; and that every such person do report to the Chief Clerk at the Office in Stone, any irregularity or impropriety of conduct which he may observe, especially on the Lord's day.

That the following Circular be transmitted to the Traders on the Navigation :-

Sir – Petitions numerously and most respectably signed having been presented to the Company of Proprietors of the Navigation from the Trent to the Mersey, praying their exertions to prevent trading upon their Canal on Sundays, and the Company being deeply impressed with the great importance of a due observance of the Sabbath day, and desirous to promote, as far as is practicable, the views and wishes stated in such petitions, they respectfully request you will give directions to your boatmen to refrain from such a practice as much as possible ; and they think it right to inform you that on and after the first day of June next, the Company's wharfs and warehouses will not be open for the receiving or delivery of goods on Sundays.

(By order) HENRY MOORE

Principal Agent to the said Company

Navigation Office, Stone, 22nd April 1840

63 May 13 1840

POLICE OFFICE, DERBY **John Stone**, a boatman, was convicted in the penalty of 10s and costs for an offence against the provisions of the Derby Canal Act, for regulating the conduct of boatmen on passing the locks in such canal with boats.

64 May 27 1840

SUSPENSION OF SUNDAY TRAFFIC ON THE TRENT AND MERSEY CANALS The proprietors of this Navigation having given notice that “on and after the 7th day of June next the Company's wharves and warehouses will not be opened for the receipt or delivery of goods on Sundays”, it becomes a matter of the greatest importance to make such provision for the superintendence and religious instruction of the boatmen at the different Sunday stations, as shall render their Sabbaths not only not injurious to others, but, through the Divine blessing, in the highest degree beneficial to themselves. With a view to this object, the Archdeacon of Stafford has, at the request of some of his brethren and with the sanction of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, who takes a deep interest in the subject, addressed the following circular to the clergymen through whose parishes the canal passes ; and we are authorised to state that he will thankfully receive any suggestions which may be made to him, either by the clergy or laity, relative to the purpose of the intended meeting, especially as to the best mode of arranging with the several carrying companies &c, the different places along the line where the boats shall stop over Sunday.

[Circular]

Lichfield, May 19 1840

Dear Sir – I beg the favour of your meeting me at the Dog Inn, Sandon, on Friday the 29th inst, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, to consider the best means of providing for the religious instruction of the boatmen and their families employed on the line of the Trent and Mersey Canal.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours, very faithfully,

GEORGE HODSON

65 May 27 1840

BOAT ACCIDENT We regret to learn that Messrs Tunley and Hodson, carriers of this town, met with a serious loss amounting to about £600, by the sinking of one of their fly boats at Shardlow on Wednesday last, owing to the horse, which was a very spirited animal, having pulled the boat over whilst turning an angle in the canal ; two of the men on board had a narrow escape of their lives. We understand that the proprietors (in a manner which does them infinite credit) immediately came forward and satisfied all claims. Much credit is due to the canal agent for the promptitude with which he obtained assistance.

66 July 1 1840

SHOCKING OCCURRENCE AT STONE On Saturday morning between three and four o'clock, the dead body of a man was observed lying in the court or passage at Stone leading from High Street to the canal, by John Salt, ostler to Morris and Co, **John Blower**, a boatman, and William Chatterton, a cordwainer. The body was not then quite cold. It proved to be the body of Edward Dutton, known at Stone as "the Old Scotchman" and "the old tramp shoemaker", a man of intemperate habits. An inquest was held on the body, and from the evidence it seems that the deceased had been drinking, and left the Antelope at twenty minutes past one o'clock in the morning of Saturday. He had three half pints of ale there. It does not appear that he was seen again by anyone alive. Mr Fallows made a *post mortem* examination of the body, and found the skull extensively fractured, and a considerable amount of coagulated blood beneath the scalp adjacent to the external wound. In his opinion, the injury was occasioned by a violent fall. The Jury returned a verdict of accidental death, through a fall whilst in a state of intoxication.

67 July 8 1840

DERBYSHIRE MIDSUMMER SESSIONS **Thomas Cordall**, charged with stealing on the 26th day of April last at the parish of Staveley, a quantity of pig iron, the property of George Hodgkinson.

Prisoner pleaded guilty by advice of his counsel, Mr Whitehurst, who pleaded for mercy, and called several witnesses to character, all of whom concurred in stating that prisoner was an industrious steady boatman, and had never committed any offence before. Sentenced to four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Thomas Roberts, aged 20, and William Sweiting, aged 22, were charged with stealing on the 21st of March last, at the parish of Shardlow, 900 lbs weight of iron, the property of James Stevenson Soresby and another, his partner.

One of the prisoners (Roberts) was a dealer in old iron, and the other is a labourer at the wharf. For some time Messrs Soresby had missed railway chairs committed to their care for transit by the Midland Counties' Railway Company. The prisoner Sweiting was employed by the railway company to assist in selecting those chairs which were fitted for their use, and to lay the rejected ones by themselves, marked with white paint. From information received by Messrs Soresby, Mr J W Soresby, on the 14th of April, followed prisoners, who had proceeded from Shardlow to Derby with a cart apparently laden with scrap iron, when he overtook them at Alvaston, near Derby. After some conversation, the prisoner Roberts ascended the cart to remove the scrap iron to convince Mr Soresby that none of his property was there ; he was, however, unable to remove the iron sufficiently, and Mr Soresby insisted on their accompanying him to his wharf at Derby, which they did. When the iron was spread upon the wharf, a quantity of broken chairs were found, the greater part broken too small to be identified, amounting in weight to about 9 cwt. Three or four pieces, however, remained in such a state as to enable Messrs Soresby, Clarke and others to identify them. The prisoner Roberts, in his examination before the magistrates, stated that he had purchased the iron of two persons at Sawley, who were produced, and denied that to be the fact.

The prisoners were ably defended, and witnesses called to character.

The jury found them Guilty – Six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

68 November 11 1840

INQUESTS BEFORE MR WHISTON JUN, CORONER Yesterday at Ilkeston on the body of **Benjamin Watson**, who was drowned the same morning in consequence of falling into the canal from one of the lock gates, which he was attempting to pass over. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned", and at the same time recommended the canal company to erect a hand rail upon the lock gates for the protection of the boatmen.

69 November 25 1840

INQUESTS BEFORE MR WHISTON JUN, CORONER On Thursday last at Codnor, on the body of **Thomas Hinckley**, boatman, who the previous morning was found dead in bed. It appeared that the deceased went to bed the night before in perfect health, and was found as before stated, in consequence of his not being at the wharf with his horse to proceed with his boat at the time he ought to have been. Verdict : "Found dead".

70 January 20 1841

OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH The Committee will now refer to the desecration of the Lord's Day on canals, and to the very encouraging attempts which have been made not only to stop all Sunday traffic on canals, but also to provide religious instruction for the boatmen employed on them, and their families. It is calculated that between 30 and 40,000 men are employed as boatmen on the canals and navigable rivers of the United Kingdom ; and it is notorious that the great body of these poor men are in a most demoralised state. The navigation has been closed on many canals and rivers on the Lord's day, to the great improvement of the bargemen, who are most thankful to have that day as a day of rest. It has been found, however, in many places, that the stopping the navigation and the congregating together of a great number of these men at particular spots has led in many cases to sad scenes of drunkenness and debauchery. Great efforts therefore have been and are making to provide religious instruction for the boatmen at these points. The Trustees of the river Weaver in Cheshire, after having prohibited all Sunday traffic, brought into Parliament, during the last session, a Bill empowering them to divest from their large surplus fund, which is usually paid in aid of the county rates, the sum of £7,000 for the purpose of building and endowing three churches for the use of the watermen. This bill encountered the most violent opposition from the anti church party and their friends ; but by the exertions of the friends of the Sabbath cause, it was carried to a successful issue. The Committee are thankful to state that they were enabled by applications to their friends in Parliament to render very efficient aid on this occasion. It will be remembered that the Committee about four years ago entered into a correspondence with various boat owners on the subject of the Sunday traffic on canals ; they also at that time addressed a letter to the general assembly of the Trent and Mersey Canal Company, who stated in reply that they were well disposed towards the object the Derbyshire Lord's Day Society had in view ; but they thought no good would result unless *all* Sunday traffic by canals, and other means of conveyance *also*, should be prohibited. This was followed up about two years ago by a second application to the chairman of that body, which was backed by memorials from the boatmen, and from members of the clergy, gentry and other influential persons residing near Shardlow, praying the navigation might be stopped, so that the boatmen rest from labour on the Sabbath day. About the same time, and since then, numerous applications have been made by many friends of the observance of the Sabbath in Staffordshire, and particularly by the Archdeacon of Stafford and many of the clergy, to the Trent and Mersey Company, and to various manufacturers, carriers and boat proprietors connected with the navigation. The result of all which is, that in April last, the company determined and gave notice that "after the first day of June 1840, the company's wharves and warehouses would not be open for the receipt or delivery of goods on Sundays". Fifty five of the manufacturers, carriers and boat proprietors immediately pledged themselves to cease – some *entirely*, others as far as possible – from Sunday traffic, *but all expressed a very strong wish that it should be abolished by law, and a firm conviction that this object could not be secured till the stoppage of all boats on the Sunday was made compulsory.* The Committee are very thankful to have it in their power to

state that Lord Normanby, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, has pledged himself, in consequence of the exertions and request of the Lord Bishop of this Diocese and of Lord Hatherton, to move in the approaching session of Parliament for a Committee of the House of Lords to investigate the subject of all Sunday traffic on canals, railways and other lines of public conveyance. The Committee are of the opinion put forward by the Bath Lord's Day Society that this opportunity should be taken to promote petitions from every parish, and also from the persons oppressed by the present system, praying the Legislature of this professedly Christian country to emancipate not only these poor canal men from their Sabbath thralldom, but also in accordance with *Sir Andrew Agnew's most Christian, most reasonable, and most benevolent measure*, to secure the Lord's Day as a day of rest from unnecessary labour to all classes of persons in the land. The Society will be much pleased to learn that their excellent patron and diocesan, the Bishop of Lichfield, is anxiously engaged, in conjunction with the Archdeacon and many of the clergy of Staffordshire, in providing religious instruction for the boatmen on the line of the Trent and Mersey canal. A society has been formed in that county for this express purpose, entitled "The Boatmen's Instruction Society". The Pastoral Aid Society has placed £120 per annum at the disposal of the Bishop, and the Curates' Aid Society £50 to meet £50 from local contributions, for the maintenance of Chaplains along the line. The Committee feel assured that the friends of religion throughout this county will most cheerfully come forward and assist his Lordship in promoting the same important and benevolent design, whenever he shall be enabled to extend it so far, not only as regards the portion of the Trent and Mersey Canal which runs through the county, but also in reference to all the other canals in Derbyshire. The Committee must not lose this opportunity of recording the indefatigable exertions of the Rev John Davies of Worcester to procure the rest of the Sabbath for the watermen, to which the country is mainly indebted for the interest which at the present moment prevails on this subject.

71 March 31 1841

CAUTION TO DRUNKARDS On Wednesday last, **Joseph Beesting**, a boatman on the Worksop and Chesterfield Canal, drank half a tea cup full of aqua fortis for the purpose of putting an end to his existence, and is now suffering from the effects in a most dreadful manner, which may be more easily imagined than described. It appears from the statement of the wretched man that in consequence of the drunken and dissolute habits which he had followed, life was a complete burthen to him, and he therefore determined to put an end to it. He now lies in a very deplorable state, with but faint hopes of recovery.

72 April 7 1841

EXECUTION OF MATTHEW FOWLES The unhappy man Matthew Fowles, who was capitally convicted on the 17th of March before Mr Justice Coleridge for the horrid murder of Martha Keeling at Newcastle-under-Lyme, was executed this morning precisely at five minutes past eight o'clock, on the drop erected in front of our county gaol. The culprit persisted in denying his guilt to the last moment prior to the fatal bolt being withdrawn.

Ever since his condemnation, Fowles has remained in a sullen state of mind. To every exhortation to repentance and confession he has invariably replied he had no confession to make, and never heard of the crime until he had been apprehended. Every attention has throughout been paid him by the chaplain, the Rev R Buckeridge, and the governor of the gaol, T Bratton Esq.

Several applications have been made by the prisoner's attorney for a respite, but Lord Normanby saw no grounds whatever for conceding the request.

As early as three o'clock this morning, the usual preparations for the erection of the drop took place. We learn that during the night the prisoner slept soundly, and partook of a hearty breakfast at five o'clock, and afterwards appeared to be fervently engaged in prayer.

Shortly after seven o'clock, the wretched culprit was conducted to the chapel, preceded by the governor and the reverend chaplain. He entered the chapel with an unfaltering step, and after casting a glance around, he took his place at the communion table. Immediately on kneeling down,

he appeared to be engaged in silent devotion. Before the Rev R Buckeridge entered upon the service of the communion, he solemnly charged the prisoner in the following terms :- "I charge you, as in the presence of Almighty God, in whose presence you will shortly appear, did you or did you not participate in the murder of that woman?" The prisoner, in a firm but low tone of voice, replied, "No, sir". On repeating the question in a form of words to prevent any evasion, he unhesitatingly replied, "I never knew a word at all about it until I was taken into custody". The service then proceeded in the most affecting manner, the reverend chaplain being greatly moved as he went through the solemn ordinance. When the chaplain arrived at the exhortation of the Saviour, "Come unto me all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest", the unfortunate man appeared to pay particular attention to the words. The worthy governor assisted the culprit to find the several parts of the service, and appeared much affected. Throughout the administration of the Holy Sacrament, Fowles's firmness seemed never to leave him for a single moment, and he retired from the chapel to the condemned cell without betraying the slightest emotion of fear, preserving however the same decorum which he had maintained during the impressive service.

On entering his cell, he presented to the governor a little book entitled "The Sinner's Friend", with a request that he would give it to a fellow prisoner, whom he named. The governor then, in the most solemn manner, besought him to tell the whole truth before he left the world, and not to die with a lie in his mouth. Fowles again declared that he knew nothing about the murder, and that he had told the truth as far as he knew.

About eight o'clock, the executioner entered the cell, and proceeded to pinion the unhappy man. Whilst he was performing this office, it was most surprising to witness the unshaken demeanour of the prisoner. The governor said, "Fowles, I hope you are not going to leave the world with a lie in your mouth?" He replied, "No, sir". The governor added, "You know that your punishment will be more than tenfold in the next world if you do". The prisoner replied, "Yes, sir, I am aware of it" He then requested that his coat and hat might be given to **Ellis**, one of the boatmen, who was reprieved only a few hours before the time fixed for his execution last year, and who still remains in the county prison.

The under sheriff, R W Hand Esq, having, aside to the governor, made the usual demand for the body of the culprit, he was delivered up into the hands of the executioner. The chaplain immediately commenced reading the burial service, and with the governor and under sheriff preceded the prisoner to the drop, the prisoner walking unsupported with a firm step. He ascended the scaffold likewise without assistance, and took his station under the fatal beam. After the rope had been placed round his neck, the governor asked him for the last time whether he had any further communication to make. He replied he should like to say one word and, turning to the rev chaplain, he said, "It's hard to die an innocent man for this thing". The rev chaplain then added, "You still assert your innocence?" To which he replied, "Yes, sir". In a few seconds the bolt was drawn, and the unhappy man was launched into eternity.

73 April 21 1841

SUNDAY TRAFFIC ON CANALS Lord Normanby's Committee for enquiry into the moral and religious state of boatmen on rivers and canals, with a view to the abolition of Sunday traffic, will meet immediately. No time should be lost in forwarding petitions in furtherance of the object.

74 July 28 1841

NOTTINGHAM ASSIZES **John Black** aged 27, boatman of Clayworth, charged with feloniously and burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling house of William Pogdin in the parish of Misterton. Transported for ten years.

75 September 14 1842

COMMITTED TO DERBY COUNTY GAOL **William Hickersley** and **William Condliff**, boatmen, charged with stealing a quantity of potatoes and turnips, the property of several farmers of Busworth, Brownside, &c.

76 June 14 1843

The arrangements for the intended new church at Etruria, Staffordshire, for the special accommodation of the boatmen, are in rapid progress. An eligible site has been fixed upon and contracts entered into with the confident expectation that the friends of this hitherto neglected class of men will supply the funds required beyond the amount of the present subscription. It is stated that the estimated cost is £700 or £800 ; whilst little more than half that sum has yet been promised. Messrs Pickford and Co have presented a donation of twenty guineas in aid of the undertaking.

77 July 5 1843

CHARGE OF MURDER On Sunday morning last, the neighbourhood of the Common, Macclesfield, was thrown into alarm by the report of a woman being found drowned in the canal near the Puss In Boots public house, and that there was every probability of her having been murdered. Immediately on this news spreading, great numbers of persons proceeded to the spot. Soon after, it was ascertained that the deceased was Elizabeth Mitchell, a girl of loose character, who had lodged for some time at a house in Sutton, having left her mother, who is a Socialist, and lives in the Dams. The girl had also been in the habit of attending the meetings of the Socialists till about six months ago ; but had been turned out of that respectable society in consequence of her “untowardly character”, about the time when it appears that the party now accused of her murder, and who had been her sweetheart, had been sent to Knutsford in consequence of a warrant which she had obtained against him for an assault, occasioned by her associating with another young man. Her father is a hawker, and does not live with her mother ; but goes to the house and has his meals there when he comes to the town. He is the girl's own father. She worked last, and up to the time of her death, at Mr Cooke's factory ; but it is said that she was an idle girl, stopped out at night, neglected her work, and would not do the housework at home. Her mother was obliged, in consequence of this unsteadiness, to be always finding her fresh places – which, it is said, was eventually the cause of her leaving home.

She was found about the middle of the canal in an upright position, as if standing, with the back of her head and her face out of the water, her face being turned in the direction from the town of Macclesfield. Her face was swelled so as to give it the appearance of a man's. The water at the spot where she was found should be 5 ft 8 in deep, but the Canal Company has its coal wharf opposite, and from the falling of coal and other materials into it, it is not so deep. No boats had passed this spot from eleven o'clock on Saturday night till seven o'clock on Sunday morning ; but there were two empty barges near where she was found. Lawton, a driver for Mr Gledhill, was taking a party to Buxton, and was passing the bridge on his vehicle. He got off the box and went part way down the steps to the canal. The persons on the other side said it was a boatman ; but he immediately saw from the hair being plaited that it was a woman, and called out, “It is not a man but a woman ; see her long hair”.

Philip Thompson, a servant of the Canal Company, was called out of his bed and assisted in taking her out. As soon as she was taken out, blood and water began running copiously from her nose. From the shrivelled state of her hands, Mr Bland, the surgeon who afterwards examined the body, says he might have thought she had been twenty four hours in the water ; but he thinks this appearance may be accounted for by the quantity of blood that he found on a *post mortem* examination in the larger cavities – the head, chest and belly. On the supposition which the following evidence renders probable – that she had only then been five hours in the water, Mr Bland would account for the body floating in the upright position in which it was found, by a circumstance that he had not observed in any other person found drowned, viz, that there was air in the right auricle of the heart, as well as other parts of the body. Her clothes had no stains of blood and they were not muddy ; so that there was nothing in fact to show that she had ever been at the bottom of the canal, which is very muddy there.

Inspector Norbury, soon after the finding of the body, proceeded to the Puss in Boots public house, to which the body was carried as soon as it had been taken out of the water. After assisting Mr Bland and the woman who first examined the body, he waited a short time till, the report of the

body having spread rapidly, many persons came to see whether they could identify her, and among the rest, Charlotte Broadhurst and the deceased's brother, who both knew her immediately. He took them with him down the Buxton Road towards the Town Hall. They had already told him that George Redfern (now accused of the murder) was her sweetheart ; and when they came to a part of the road between Mr Brocklehurst's gates and the Bull public house, Redfern met them, and immediately went up to Broadhurst and Mitchell, and said, "Have you found her? Have you found her?" Norbury immediately took him into custody, and brought him to the police office. Redfern then stated to him that he had not seen her since Thursday. At this time on Sunday morning, the prisoner had on some very bad clothes, being those in which he appeared before the Coroner, although it seems from the evidence that he had on a new velveteen jacket the previous day – a circumstance which the Coroner's Jury considered of great importance.

An inquest was held on the body, and the Coroner told the prisoner that the jury had found a verdict of Wilful Murder against him.

Prisoner, putting on his hat – Then they have found a lie, a d---d infernal lie. He added that the jury and all present were a set of d----d infernal scamps, vagabonds, &c.

The Coroner then informed him that it had now become his duty to commit him to Chester Castle ; and as the prisoner continued his violent language, he ordered him to be removed. He was removed accordingly, and for some time after employed himself alternately in singing at the top of his voice, and cursing and swearing as loud as he could, particularly at his fellow prisoner, who was a witness against him, and who was afterwards locked up in a separate cell from him. The prisoner is 22 years of age, a little man, marked with the smallpox. The deceased was not quite 17, and was small for her age.

Abridged from the Macclesfield Courier

78 April 17 1844

DERBY EASTER SESSIONS

STEALING CHEESES Thomas Hicking, aged 25, and John Smith, aged 24, were charged with having, on the 24th day of March at the parish of St Peter, feloniously stolen two cheeses, the property of **John Hicking**.

Mr Mozley prosecuted ; the prisoners were undefended.

The prisoner Thomas Hicking is no relation to prosecutor.

John Hicking is captain to one of Messrs Soresby's canal boats, and he received from Mr Goodwin's warehouse 35 or 36 tons of cheese on the 24th March on board his boat for Gainsboro'. Left Kilburn and two others in charge of the boat while he went to Donington, but rejoined it at Shardlow and then went with it to Gainsboro', where he missed the two cheeses which were marked with the letter B. Witness paid his employers for them.

George Kilburn, a boatman, was left in command of the vessel during previous witness's absence.

Charles Johnson, warehouseman to Mr Goodwin, proved the cheese marked B spoken of being put into the boat.

Charles Wragg, policeman – On Sunday morning, 11 o'clock (March 24), in consequence of information, went with Hanson to an old coal boat, and the prisoners jumped out and ran away. Found one cheese in the boat. (The cheese was produced in Court, and Charles Johnson identified it as one put in Hicking's boat). The boat was not occupied. He apprehended Hicking after some difficulty.

Richard Hanson, policeman, corroborated last witness's statement, and produced a second cheese taken from the boat referred to, which the witness Johnson identified. He apprehended the prisoner Smith.

Benjamin Street spoke to the boat in which the cheeses were found, which was one not in use.

Prisoners denied the robbery.

The Recorder recapitulated the evidence and

The jury, after some consideration, found both the prisoners guilty.

Hicking had been previously convicted of a felony. Evidence was given of the fact.

The same prisoners were charged in a second indictment with having on the 24th day of March at the parish of St Peter feloniously stolen one loaf of bread, one piece of pork, one piece of butter and one earthenware pot, the property of **John Stain**, a boatman. The jury found both the prisoners guilty. Hicking was sentenced to transportation for 15 years, and Smith to one year's imprisonment with hard labour.