

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GUARDIAN**  
**1849 to 1852**

**1 January 4 1849**

WORKSOP PETTY SESSIONS, DECEMBER 27 **William Hackett** the younger of Retford was adjudged to pay the costs for wasting water on the Canal Navigation, contrary to the bye laws of the Chesterfield Canal Company. **William Wells** of Staveley, boatman, who did not appear to the summons served on him, was fined in the mitigated penalty of 10s and 13s 6d costs for a similar offence.

**2 January 4 1849**

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY SESSIONS

STEALING A RUG **John Brown**, boatman, Grantham, aged 22, was charged with stealing, at the parish of Kinoulton on the 27<sup>th</sup> December, a horse rug, the property of William Hourd. Mr Wilmore appeared for the prosecution ; the prisoner was undefended. Richard Blount was driving his master's cart, when the prisoner and another man jumped in ; after riding a short distance, the latter got out, and when he was gone, witness missed a rug. He followed the prisoner, and caught him with the rug in his possession. In his defence, prisoner told the jury he was very fresh, and took the rug as a joke ; not intending to steal it. Blount was recalled, and in answer to the Chairman, said he did not know whether the man was "drunk" ; he could walk, "and was wonderfully strong an' all". (Laughter). He was about 150 yards from the cart when caught. Three witnesses spoke favourably of the prisoner's character. Guilty, but recommended to mercy. Sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment ; two weeks in solitary confinement.

ROBBING A BOAT James Shaw alias Bamford, aged 25, was charged with stealing, within the extra parochial limits of the Castle of Nottingham, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November last, one towel, the property of **Samuel Newton**. Mr Boden (for the prosecution) called **William Allcock**, who stated that on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November he was with a boat on the canal within the limits of the Castle. He slept on board. In the middle of the night, he heard someone in the boat, and on getting up and making an outcry, a man made his escape by the hatchway. On the following morning, it was discovered that a towel was missing. Superintendent Rayner apprehended the prisoner, and a towel was found upon him, which prosecutor believed to be his, though he could not speak to any particular mark upon it. Acquitted.

CHARGE OF STEALING A ROPE AND CHAIN **John Draper**, aged 22, boatman, Loughborough, was charged with stealing at Eastwood on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, fifty yards of rope and one iron chain, the property of John Toulerton Leather. Mr Wilmore conducted the prosecution ; the prisoner was defended by Mr Boden. The rope and chain in question were missed on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November from the works on the Beggarlee branch of the Erewash Valley Railway. On the night of the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, prisoner was seen with a boat hook dragging a rope from the canal in the vicinity of the works. Finding himself observed, he ran away ; leaving the rope (which was proved to belong to prosecutor) partly out of the water. Mr Boden addressed the jury, and then called several witnesses, who gave the prisoner an excellent character. Acquitted.

CHARGE OF STEALING TREES **Joseph Swanwick**, boatman, New Snenton, was charged with stealing, at the parish of Snenton on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, three ash trees and one aspen tree, the property of Benjamin Garsides and others. Mr W H Adams appeared for the prosecution ; the prisoner was defended by Mr Wilmore. It was admitted that the prisoner, assisted by two men whom he engaged for the purpose, removed the trees in question from Messrs Garsides' wharf, and disposed of them ; the only question was whether he took them with a felonious intent. The defence was that prisoner bought the trees of a man named Wood, in the employ of the prosecutors ; and several witnesses were called in support of this statement. Wood, however, positively denied such

being the fact. The prisoner received a good character. The jury, after a somewhat protracted deliberation, returned a verdict of acquittal.

Many of the cases recorded at this particular sessions were minor robberies carried out by "tramps", most of which were driven by hunger. One such was Cephias Betts, who pleaded guilty to stealing 2 lbs of beef, and it is recorded "this robbery was committed through excessive hunger, and that Betts was stated by the gaoler still to be in a very weak state from starvation".

### **3 January 11 1849**

RETTFORD EPIPHANY SESSIONS **James Knott** pleaded guilty to stealing a piece of rope at Worksop, the property of Mr Robert Carlisle. From the statement of the chairman, it appeared that the prisoner is a boatman, who had hitherto sustained a good character ; he, however, on this occasion being in need of a small piece of rope, and seeing this, cut from it a piece which was not worth 6d, and appropriated it to his purpose. It was a trifling offence. He was, however, sentenced to one month's imprisonment, with hard labour.

### **4 January 25 1849**

RETTFORD POLICE COURT **John Teal**, boatman, charged with stealing from his employer, Mr Cooling, brickmaker, Walkeringham, on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, a quantity of coals, was committed for trial at the next sessions.

### **5 March 1 1849**

RETTFORD BOROUGH POLICE **John Newton**, boatman of Chesterfield, was charged with assaulting **Mr John Wheatley**, clerk to the Chesterfield Canal Company. He was discharged on payment of 5s costs.

### **6 March 8 1849**

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ADJOURNED (EPIPHANY) SESSIONS The following prisoner pleaded guilty :- **William Peet**, aged 48, boatman, Nottingham, to stealing on the 19<sup>th</sup> January last 1 cwt of coal, belonging to John Bagguley and John Gray. The prisoner said he and some other boatmen had to remain in a boat on the canal one night, because they were afraid it would sink if they did not bail the water out. It was very cold, and he thought he was doing no harm in taking a few cobbles to make a fire. One calendar month to hard labour in Southwell House of Correction ; one week solitary.

### **7 March 22 1849**

DEATHS At the Infirmary on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, aged 23 years, **William Naseby**, boatman, Narrow Marsh, Nottingham.

### **8 April 12 1849**

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

POCKET PICKING **William Spooner**, aged 19, London Road, boatman, and John Smith, aged 19, of Bromley Street, were charged by a man named Devine with picking his pocket of a purse containing 30s on Friday night, whilst he was lying down basking in the sun on Sandy Lane. A lad named O'Donohoe saw the theft, but did not dare tell Devine until the rascals had gone away. He then made known what he had seen, and the prisoners were apprehended the same night. They were remanded until the following morning, when they were discharged, the complainant not appearing against them.

### **9 May 24 1849**

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE TRENT On Tuesday night, a party of young gentlemen met at the Town Arms, Trent Bridge, Nottingham, and remained there until about two o'clock on Wednesday

morning, when one of them proposed a ride in a boat down to Newark. A four oared boat was instantly made ready, and the party, consisting of seven in number, prepared for the trip. They went up the Trent about 60 yards for the purpose of turning round. They came down again at tolerably good speed, and were going through the fourth arch from the side next Nottingham, when the nose of the boat struck against the abutment, and she filled and sank. Five of the crew contrived to reach the land, another was fortunate enough to seize an oar, with which he floated to Grantham Canal Bridge (a distance of a quarter of a mile) where he succeeded in getting out, but the seventh was drowned. The body was found about the middle of the Trent, opposite Sneinton meadow, by some men who were getting gravel. The deceased's name is Frederick Arnold Doleman, he is 23 years old, and son of Mr Doleman, jeweller, Middle Pavement, with whom he worked and lived. An inquest was held over the body yesterday (Wednesday) evening at the Town Arms before Mr Coroner Browne, when the following evidence was adduced :- One of the crew said : I have known Frederick Doleman some years. I was here with him last night. I had been here from about 9 o'clock. This morning about half past two o'clock, we agreed to go on to the river. We took a boat and went a short distance, and turned to come down. On passing through the arches, the boat struck the abutment. She immediately filled – the water rushing in at the head. We were thrown into the water, and carried down. When I got through the arch I attempted to reach the abutment, but the water seemed to bear me away. I then caught hold of the stem of the boat, but as two of the crew were already upon it, I thought it would not carry us all ; seeing an oar a short distance off, I left the boat and caught hold of it. I was taken down by the stream, and carried below Grantham Canal Bridge. The stream seemed to bear me to the side towards Sneinton meadow, and I got out there. I never saw Doleman after the boat struck. The morning was breaking. There was a flush of water on in the river. The reason we struck was because we turned too soon and came down too near this side. We could not with distinctness see the arches fifty yards off, but we could see through them when we got near. We went through the fourth arch. We were too near the Nottingham side, and the stream washed us on to the abutment. The boat was too heavy with the number of people in it, and did not answer to the helm as it would have done with a proper crew. I have not seen Doleman since. I was quite sober, and have every reason to believe the other part of the crew were. There was no rash conduct at all. Francis Poole, a police officer, said : I was on the bridge this morning about three o'clock. I saw a party of men get into a boat above the Bridge. They went up about 50 or 60 yards, and then came down at a rapid rate. I thought they were gone through the arch, and went to the other side to see, and was surprised to behold them all in the water. I could not tell how many there were in the water. I called Mr Hart out, and we went to the Island. Three of them swam to the osier holt, and one I saw sink very near the Bridge. The last I saw of him was about 20 yards below the Bridge. He did not appear to swim at all. He did not come up high enough for me to distinguish his dress. Three of the crew went down the Trent ( two on the boat, I understand, and one on an oar). I saw the body at nine o'clock this morning. I could not say it was the body of the man I had seen drown. I had not the opportunity of searching the body when it was found (at eight o'clock) because I had to attend to my duty. I searched the body at nine o'clock, and found two door keys, a pair of kid gloves, a penknife, two penny pieces and a light silk pocket handkerchief. When getting the boat ready, the crew did not appear to be in liquor. **William Palethorpe**, Butcher's Close, Nottingham, boatman, deposed that, this morning at about eight o'clock, he and four other men were getting sand out of the Trent near Snenton Meadow, when they found the body. They put it on the bank directly. A little boat came down soon after, and the body was taken away. He never left it until it was put into the little boat. It was dressed in a pilot coat. They saw that he was dead, and did not attempt to take his clothes off ; nor did they send for a medical man. John Hart, landlord of the Town Arms, stated that the body was brought up to his house, and was carried into the stable. About half past nine o'clock, a young lady and gentleman came up, and said the deceased had a watch and other valuable property upon him, and they requested the witness to examine the body. In one of the waistcoat pockets he found a watch key. This was before Poole searched the body. The Jury, without the slightest hesitation, returned the verdict of “Accidentally drowned”. Immediately before the accident, the deceased was known to have in his possession a

gold watch and chain, a diamond ring, a brass pin and about sixteen shillings in money. The watch and chain could not by any possibility have been lost in the water, because before getting into the boat the unfortunate young gentleman was seen to button his pilot coat tightly round. When the body was, however, examined at the Town Arms by the policeman, all the valuable property was missing. A strict investigation of the matter is being made.

It is a singular coincidence that Mr Josiah Doleman, brother of the unfortunate young gentleman drowned in the Trent, died on the same day of the month, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and at the same age, 23 years.

## **10 May 31 1849**

### **POLICE NEWS**

#### **COUNTY HALL NOTTINGHAM**

**ASSAULTING A POLICEMAN** PC Carey charged **William Hinchley** with assaulting him on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult, at the new bridge over the Trent in the parish of Sneinton. It appeared that the defendant was a boatman, and had a right to pass over the bridge, but about six or seven o'clock in the evening of the day in question he was attempting to pass over with a companion (not a boatman), and the complainant, who keeps the gate at the bridge, refused to let them go over. Hinchley said he should go over when he pleased, and take whomsoever he thought fit with him. Carey laid his hand upon Hinchley's collar to prevent his passing the gate, and the latter then threw him on his back. The Bench dismissed the case, cautioning the policeman in future to distinguish between those who had a right to go through, and those who had not.

**CHARGE OF UNLAWFULLY NETTING IN THE CANAL** Robert Willoughby and George Harvey appeared to answer an indictment charging them with unlawfully netting fish in a part of the canal running through Beeston Meadow, in the parish of Lenton, on the 21<sup>st</sup> instant. Mr Smith appeared for the defendants. Matthew Lowe, keeper to Mr Charles Wright, said on the day in question he saw the defendants, who were in a boat using nets in the above place. He concealed himself, and watched them until they had worked their boat into the middle of the water, when he made them aware of his presence, and they immediately commenced dragging their net in order to get out of the way. They had upwards of thirty yards of trammelling in the canal, and he saw them take several fish out, a pound or two each. Mr Charles Wright had the right of fishing over that water, granted to him from Mr Francis Wright. The defendant Willoughby said he had fished in that water for 17 years, both with Lowe and Mr Wright. He had received permission from both of them, and the present case arose out of spite. The magistrates thought before the case was gone into it should be clearly shown to whom the right of fishing belonged. The case was adjourned until next Saturday week, that Mr Charles Wright, who is in London, may be enabled to attend for that purpose.

## **11 July 5 1849**

### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MIDSUMMER SESSIONS**

**FELONY AT RATCLIFFE** **Thomas Chapman**, aged 27 years, East Bridgford, pleaded not guilty to stealing, at Ratcliffe-on-Trent on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, two iron bars, the property of William Greaves, Thomas Smart and another. Mr Adams prosecuted ; the prisoner was undefended. It appeared that early in April the two bars were stolen from the wharf at Ratcliffe, and on Good Friday the prisoner sold them to a blacksmith named Straw, of East Bridgford. At the same time, he said he had bought the iron of some boatmen belonging to the Trent Waterworks Company. But when apprehended, he gave various accounts ; he said he had bought it of a boatman for some coal ; and another story was that it was put into his boat while he was asleep. Guilty. Three calendar months' hard labour, one week solitary.

## **12 July 12 1849**

### **INSOLVENT DEBTORS' COURT**

**COUNTY HALL, NOTTINGHAM, FRIDAY JULY 6** **William Hincks**, boatman, Castle Terrace,

Nottingham. The insolvent's debts amount to £288 and his assets to £98, besides an annuity, on the death of his mother, estimated at £100. Ordered to file a copy of the will, and the 10<sup>th</sup> of August was named for a final order. Solicitor, Mr Bowley, Nottingham.

**13 July 12 1849**

COUNTY HALL, NOTTINGHAM

THE JOLLY ANGLER, BEESTON Police-constable Vaux charged Joseph Dickinson, landlord of the "Jolly Angler" at Beeston, with keeping his house open on Sunday morning, otherwise than for the refreshment of travellers. Vaux went into the house at half past one, and saw eight men drinking. They all appeared to be in liquor, and one was very drunk. Mr Coope appeared for the defendant, and stated that the men were boatmen waiting for their horses. Case dismissed ; but the defendant's wife, who attended, was cautioned to be more careful in future.

**14 July 12 1849**

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

THE WOODEN BRIDGE NUISANCE **William Harrison**, boatman, aged about 21 years, was charged by Mr George Wastie with assaulting him on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. The complainant stated that on the afternoon of the day in question, he was crossing the Wooden Bridge leading from Trent Row into the meadows. There were a number of boatmen and other rough looking persons on the bridge, amongst whom was the defendant. As he was passing, he (defendant) struck him, and then ran down Trent Row. He followed and came up with the defendant at the other end of the row, and was inquiring of the bystanders the defendant's name, when that individual went up to him, struck him, and knocked him down. Emanuel Millington corroborated the complainant's statement. The defendant, in reply, said that as Mr Wastie was crossing the bridge he trod upon his toes, and in the "agony of the moment" he lifted up his arm and happened to hit the complainant, who then pursued him with a stick, and as he was trying to get away from him, he chanced to knock him down. The Mayor not giving credence to this very improbable tale, ordered the defendant to enter into recognisances to keep the peace, himself in £10 and two sureties of £5 each, and to pay the expenses, 14s 6d. His Worship, in passing judgement, said this was not the first time he had heard of people being insulted on the bridge, and the magistrates were determined to put the nuisance down.

**15 July 19 1849**

BOY DROWNED AT LENTON On Saturday last, an inquest was held before Mr C Swann, at the Albion Hotel, Lenton, on the body of George Brewster Pearson, aged 7 years, son of Joseph Pearson, coal higgler. On Saturday morning about ten o'clock, the deceased left his mother's house in company with other boys. They went into the park and crossed the Leen at the Cow drinks. The deceased then proposed a bathe in the canal, but his companions were frightened of being drowned and asked him not to attempt it. Notwithstanding their entreaties, he stripped and jumped into the water. He immediately went over head. While struggling, a man rode by, and the boys directed his attention to the drowning lad, but the fellow only laughed, and then rode away. When the deceased had been under water about five minutes, a boat came past, and the body was got out by a boatman. Verdict : Accidentally drowned.

**16 August 2 1849**

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

SLEEPING IN A HAYSTACK **Reuben Mellor**, aged 18 years, boatman ; Alfred Ledger, 23, Old Radford, and Jonathan Close, 18, were brought up charged with having on the previous night slept in a haystack in the West Croft belonging to Mr Sharp, coal merchant, Queen's Road. They all admitted the charge. Ledger and Close, being old offenders, were committed for a month each, and Mellor for 14 days.

**17 August 16 1849**

COUNTY HALL, NOTTINGHAM

**STEALING TURNIPS** **George Hine**, a youth about 10 years old, was charged with stealing four Swede turnips on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August at the parish of Eastwood. Police-constable Whitehead said he was on duty yesterday at 12 o'clock when he saw the prisoner in Mr Walker's field near the Erewash Canal, getting some turnips. He followed the prisoner to a boat on the canal where his father was waiting. The prisoner said he should not have taken them if he had not been hungry. Convicted in the penalty of 11s 6d, in default of payment, he was ordered to be confined in the Nottingham Gaol for fourteen days.

**18 September 13 1849**

WORKSOP

**INQUEST** On Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, an inquest was held at the house of Mr George Holmes, the Gas Tavern, before Mr Hughes, deputy coroner, relative to the death of **Samuel**, son of **Mr Richard Fox**, boatman, aged eight years, who, on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant, was assisting his father in his accustomed occupation, and whilst engaged in clearing the rope under the canal bridge near Shireoaks (his father sliding the lock gate at the time), he unfortunately fell into the water, unobserved by anyone. Fox missed his son, and inquired of his man, who was on the boat, if he knew where he was. The man replied, "He was here not a minute since". On looking about, his father saw his son's cap floating on the water, and forthwith went to **Mullings**, the lock-keeper, to get a rake, and by whom he was assisted in dragging the canal thereabouts, by which means he brought up the lifeless body of his unfortunate son, and conveyed it to the Gas Tavern. The jury returned as their verdict, "Accidentally drowned, and not otherwise".

**19 September 20 1849**

**MARRIAGES** At Plungar on the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, by the Rev F G Burnaby, vicar, **Mr William Morley**, waterman, to Miss Mary Burden, both of Plungar.

**20 September 20 1849**

COUNTY HALL, NOTTINGHAM

**STEALING GRAVEL** **William Revill**, boatman, was charged by James Upton with having, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September at Ratcliffe-on-Trent, committed certain damage to the bed of the river Trent by taking therefrom certain gravel, the property of Earl Manvers. The defendant admitted the charge, and said that he had taken the gravel since March, and did not know that he was doing any harm. He was convicted in a mitigated penalty and costs, 11s 6d.

**21 September 27 1849**

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

**SUSPECTED FELONY** **George Dakin**, aged 44, boatman, Castle Donington, and **George Cartlidge**, aged 65, boatman, Castle Donington, were brought up by Inspector Wilkinson on suspicion of stealing 80 lbs weight of gunpowder tea. The tea was missed on Saturday night from a shop warehouse at Gainsborough, and from information he received, Wilkinson went to a boat of which Cartlidge is captain, and found the tea in a bag concealed in a cabin occupied by Dakin. They both protested that they knew nothing of the property. Remanded.

**22 October 11 1849**

**MARRIAGES** At Worksop on the 10<sup>th</sup> instant, **Mr Thomas Twelves**, boatman, to Miss H Moore, both of Worksop.

**23 October 18 1849**

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MICHAELMAS SESSIONS

**STEALING A PLANK** **Henry Jones** and **John Barker** pleaded not guilty to stealing, at Holme

Pierrepoint on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, a deal plank belonging to **John Wilson**. Mr Wilmore prosecuted ; the prisoners were undefended. John Wilson, boatman living at Cropwell Bishop, stated that some time ago he missed the plank from a gravel heap at Gamston. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September he found it again upon a manure heap, about five miles from the gravel pit. A piece had been cut from each end. In the canal, about 400 or 500 yards from the plank, was a boat, in which he found the prisoners. Jones acted as captain, and Barker formed "the crew". He asked them where they had got the plank, and Jones said Barker took the plank and he sawed the ends off. He then told them he should go for a policeman, upon which Jones offered to buy another plank if he (prosecutor) would let the affair go no further. Barker having asked this witness a few questions, to prove that he had told him he had borrowed the plank of a man named Fox, complained that the "definations" were taken, and he was committed without having been taken before a magistrate. He then called "*Mister Benjamin Hart Thorold Esquire*", who being placed in the box said, in reply to the Court, that he was a squire, or a gentleman, or what else they liked to call him. This witness deposed that the plank was part of an old boat belonging to him ; that it was broken up by his orders; and that he had not sold it to Wilson. William Fox, in the employ of Mr Thorold, identified the plank as being the "keelsen" of an old boat belonging to his master. He remembered the prisoners coming to him, and stating that they had taken the plank from Gamston, and asking his permission to borrow it. Mr Wilmore recalled Wilson, who produced a bill showing that he had bought the plank for four shillings of Marshall, boat builder, who had broken up the boat. Barker having addressed a few observations to the jury, enforcing the fact that they had borrowed the plank, the Chairman briefly summed up. Not Guilty. Mr Thorold asked the Court if he should be justified in taking possession of the plank. He did not like to leave it, nor did he wish to run the risk of being placed in the dock for stealing his own property. The Chairman declined to give any opinion upon the matter.

These sessions also include the case of Jane Leaf who was accused of stealing some wheat. She was the wife of Green Leaf of Woodborough.

#### **24 November 1 1849**

INQUESTS IN NOTTINGHAM This day (Thursday) on the body of a man named **Dean**, aged 36, of Albion Street, boatman. The deceased had been to Gainsborough (where the cholera has been so very prevalent), and while his boat was lying there, he was seized with an attack of diarrhoea. After he had been unwell six or seven days, not having taken any medicine, he became much worse, and on Tuesday he was unable to follow his occupation. He was transferred to another boat and brought to Nottingham. About half past nine o'clock, a boy was sent out for a surgeon, and he met Mr North in the street. He was taken to the house of the deceased, whom he found in a confirmed state of Asiatic Cholera. D Gill and several other medical gentlemen were called in, and they applied all the usual remedies, but the deceased died at noon on Wednesday. Verdict : That the deceased died of Asiatic Cholera.

#### **25 November 1 1849**

INQUESTS BEFORE MR C SWANN At Barton on Friday, and by adjournment on Monday, on the body of **Samuel Hardy**, aged 40, boatman, who died of Asiatic Cholera on Thursday morning. Verdict accordingly.

#### **26 December 6 1849**

A BOATMAN WITH MORE MONEY THAN WIT Last Monday night, **Thomas Brammer**, captain of a boat belonging to Messrs Marshall and Fox of Newark, was whispering sweet tales of love into the ears of a damsel frail in Rose Yard, Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham, and she, to repay his kind attentions, lightened his pocket of a purse containing four £5 notes and a sovereign. When she had effected her purpose, she gave a signal to some men in the street, who made their appearance in the entry with much boisterous language, and the woman made her escape. The gay

boatman returned home with a light pocket and a heavy heart.

### **27 December 20 1849**

**A MAN DROWNED** On Friday an inquest was held at Holme Pierrepont before Mr Swann on the body of **James Weeldon**, aged 78 years. The deceased had been keeper of the Trent Lock for eight years. On the previous night he was going to open the gates for a boat to pass through, and the night being exceedingly dark, he fell into the canal, and before he could be rescued was drowned. Verdict : "Accidental death".

### **28 January 24 1850**

**BINGHAM**

**MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF A POLICEMAN** Last Monday evening, James Sanford, the Cotgrove police officer, left Bingham with a horse and cart, to convey a prisoner to Nottingham County Gaol. The man, **James Latham**, a boatman, had been committed for trial at the assizes by H Martin Esq, charged with breaking into the premises occupied by Mr John New, butcher, at Cropwell Bishop, and stealing five stone of beef. Between nine and ten o'clock the same night, Mr Smart, contractor, of the Trent Bridge, was proceeding towards Bingham, when he saw a horse and cart by the roadside, near Lady Bay Bridge. Upon looking into the cart, he observed the policeman, with his head lying upon the seat board, and a pair of handcuffs dangling from one of his wrists. He was nearly dead ; and the thief had escaped. At first it was supposed that the poor fellow had been killed by the prisoner, but subsequent inquiry suggests the idea that he died of disease of the heart, rendered fatal by a struggle with Latham in his endeavour to escape. An inquest has been opened, but adjourned from Tuesday evening last, until efforts have been made to recapture the runaway.

### **29 February 21 1850**

**RETFORD**

**TOWN HALL, FEBRUARY 16** John Otter was brought up on a charge of stealing a gun out of a boat on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August last, the property of **Mr John Barridge**, the master of a boat trading on the Chesterfield Canal and the River Trent. Otter was committed to the House of Correction at Southwell to await his trial at the next East Retford sessions. He was afterwards bailed out.

### **30 March 7 1850**

**MAN DROWNED** On Monday last an inquest was held at Normanton-on-Soar, on the body of **Thomas Letts**, aged 20, boatman. The deceased was in the employ of Mr Cuffling of Mountsorrel, farmer. About six weeks ago he and some other men were returning with a boat from Pye Bridge. The hauling path being covered with water, the deceased was obliged to ride on the horse, instead of leading him. When he had crossed the bridge, the horse slipped into the river, and the deceased became immersed in the water. The captain was in the boat, another man was attending to the other boat, and no one being in a position to assist the deceased, he was drowned. The body was not found until Sunday last. Verdict : "Accidentally drowned".

### **31 March 14 1850**

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SPRING ASSIZES** The following is a list of prisoners committed for trial in the county :- **Samuel Ward**, aged 28, waterman, Gainsborough, **Robert Dawson**, aged 19, labourer, East Retford, and **William Allen**, aged 29, labourer, Retford, charged with night poaching at Bothamsall on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **32 March 14 1850**

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ADJOURNED SESSIONS**

**FELONY AT LOWDHAM** **James Handford**, aged 40, Gunthorpe, boatman, pleaded not guilty to stealing, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Feb, eighty pounds weight of wheat straw, the property of Thomas Rayner of Lowdham. Mr Nesbit prosecuted ; Mr Adams defended. Between two and three o'clock on

Thursday afternoon the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, Thomas Cupit, servant to Mr Rayner, Lowdham, was watching in his master's stack yard, when he saw the prisoner come out of an adjoining stack yard belonging to Mr Marriott, publican. He made a band of some loose straw, and then bound some sheaves of wheat straw in it, and returned with it to Mr Marriott's yard. Cupit followed him, and having taken the straw from him, went in search of a policeman, and the prisoner went to a boat about a hundred yards distant, of which he formed "the crew". Cupit afterwards followed the prisoner and apprehended him near the Holme Lock. When taken into custody, he said he did not know that the straw belonged to Mr Rayner, and that he wished he had been in bed. At the time he was committed, he said it was the first time, and he hoped Mr Rayner would be merciful to him. Mr Adams for the defence admitted that the prisoner had stolen the straw, but stated that he was not aware that it belonged to Mr Rayner. He said the prisoner had slept at the house of Mr Marriott, and that it was usual in such cases for the publicans to allow boatmen staying at their houses to help themselves to get straw for the use of the boat, and that he (the prisoner) thought he was upon Mr Marriott's premises when he took the straw. Two witnesses gave evidence in support of this statement, and several persons gave the prisoner a good character. Guilty, with a recommendation to mercy. One calendar month's imprisonment with hard labour : one week solitary.

### 33 March 28 1850

A MAN DROWNED IN ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE FROM CUSTODY An inquest was held at Hemington, near Kegworth, on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst, on the body of **Thomas Paxton**, a boatman. He had been stealing some fowls on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst, the property of Mr Atkins of Sawley Bridge and Hemington Toll gates, who apprehended him. The deceased got away, and jumped into a sheet of water called the "Hully-gully", which was about seven feet deep. He managed to get to the middle of the water, when his legs became entangled with the weeds and he was drowned. The body was not found till the following morning. Verdict : Accidental death.

### 34 March 28 1850

#### WORKSOP

FELONY On Thursday last, two men named **William Wells alias Allen** and ---- **Searston** were apprehended at Norwood End by Curzon, chief constable of Worksop, for having stolen (six weeks ago) from a mail cart at Worksop a travelling rug, a meat pie &c. The prisoners are boatmen and notorious characters – one of them having been in prison several times. They were conveyed on Saturday last before Robert Ramsden Esq of Carlton Hall, and by him committed to Southwell House of Correction for trial at the next Retford Sessions.

### 35 April 18 1850

#### COUNTY HALL, NOTTINGHAM

DAMAGE TO THE TRENT John Singleton was charged by James Upton with having done damage to property belonging to Earl Manvers at Holme Pierrepont by taking gravel out of the river. Prisoner admitted getting gravel, but denied the damage, whereupon witness swore that the anchor had made a hole in the bank of the river that would cost 5s to repair, and if a flood had come the damage might have been £100. Ordered to pay 14s.

### 36 April 18 1850

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM **James Hutchinson** aged 23, boatman, Lees Yard, Narrow Marsh, was brought up on suspicion of having stolen 20 lbs weight of straw, the property of Mr Robinson, from a boat on the canal in the East Croft. Discharged for want of identification.

### 37 May 2 1850

MANSLAUGHTER NEAR NOTTINGHAM The last week's number of the Guardian contained a notice of a brutal fight which had taken place on the Tuesday previously on the Trent side, near the Wilford Ferry, in which, after a contest of an hour and a half, one of the men was knocked down

senseless, and had not since rallied. He never showed any signs of consciousness, and died on Thursday last. On Friday an inquest was held over the body, when the following facts were elicited :- The deceased was Henry Flowers, better known as Moses, aged about 30, of Dutch Alley, Narrow Marsh, and was a seller of watercresses and turnip tops. On Tuesday evening, the deceased was seen talking with a boatman named **George Thoms** in the Narrow Marsh, and after a short and sharp altercation between them, they agreed to have a fight. It seemed by the tone of the evidence that there had been a past quarrel between them, and that the deceased was determined to fight Thoms. They went, accompanied by about 50 others, to the Trent side, a short distance below the ferry. Backers, bottle holders and time keepers having been appointed, they began to fight. Both men were about the same height, but Thoms possessed the most muscular power. Up to the last two or three rounds, the deceased had evidently the best of the fight. The last round but two, he came up to Thoms holding his fingers out and singing jeeringly. Thoms was enraged by this display, and struck the deceased a blow on the ribs, which sent him into the hedge bottom. The next round the deceased came up in the same jeering manner, but evidently very weak. He was again felled to the ground by a powerful strike from Thoms. The last round he taunted Thoms, telling him he had an ugly face, but he would make it uglier before they had done. After sparring a short time, they both struck out together, Thoms hitting the deceased under the left ear. He fell down in a state of insensibility, from which he never recovered. They bathed his face with cold water and tried to restore him, but could not. A cab was then fetched, and he was conveyed home. Mr Unthank, surgeon, was speedily in attendance, and attended him until his death. He made a *post mortem* examination of the body, and on opening the cranium, which was thick and heavy, he found the membrane covering of the brain a good deal congested, and a large clot of blood on the right hemisphere. On the other side there was a larger clot, with a good deal of coagulated blood, which had come from a rupture of the middle artery of the brain. The pressure on the brain by this clot of blood had caused apoplexy. He had no doubt the bruise was the result of a blow. Verdict : Manslaughter against George Thoms. Warrants are out for the apprehension of Thoms, but his whereabouts have not yet been ascertained.

### **38 May 2 1850**

WORKSOP On Wednesday morning, a boatman named **William Snell** was taken into custody by Inspector Duff for having stolen two couple of fowls from Mr Cartwright of the canal wharf. On the fowls being missing, and from a circumstance which transpired on the previous night, Mr Cartwright's suspicions were fixed on the prisoner, and he with the above officer pursued and took him into custody.

### **39 May 16 1850**

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

BOATMEN, BEWARE! Ann Winfield, Narrow Marsh, *nymph de pave*, was charged with picking the pocket of **John Davis**, boatman, of 50s. The complainant stated that on the previous night he went home with the prisoner, and took a night's lodging. On awaking in the morning, he missed 50s from his pocket. He then gave information to Police-constable Samuel Cliffe, who apprehended the prisoner. There had been several other persons in the lodging room during the night, and he could not say that the woman had taken the money. No evidence appearing against her, she was discharged. The Mayor gave a suitable caution to the boatman, remarking that he who played with the fire must expect to be burnt.

### **40 May 23 1850**

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

DISORDERLIES **George Patchitt** aged 19, of Lees Yard, Narrow Marsh, and **James Thornton**, 21, Crossland Street, boatmen, were convicted on their own confession of creating a breach of the peace by fighting in Narrow Marsh on Sunday afternoon. Ordered to find sureties to keep the peace for three months, and to pay the expenses, 10s each.

#### 41 June 6 1850

**A SOLDIER DROWNED AT LOUGHBOROUGH** The weather on Thursday afternoon last being excessively hot, a number of privates in the troop of the First Royal Dragoons, now stationed at Loughborough, left the barracks for the purpose of bathing in the river Soar, which was about a mile distant. After bathing a considerable time, two privates named William Jackson and George Shepherd were left in the water by themselves, and both were inexpert swimmers. Jackson was making for the side, intending to get out, when he saw Shepherd struggling with his chin below the water, and water entering his mouth. He immediately called out for assistance, and then took hold of Shepherd's wrist and took several strokes towards the side, when Shepherd seized him by the arm, and they both went under the water. The remainder of the party were all on the bank, and, with the exception of a man named Pacey, were nearly dressed when Jackson called for assistance. Pacey instantly plunged into the river, and when Jackson and Shepherd came up, he seized the latter by the hair of his head and made for the side, but he too was drawn under the water. Jackson, who was nearly exhausted, contrived to get out. The trumpeter and a man named Rose were by this time undressed again, and both jumped into the water. When Pacey and Shepherd came up, the trumpeter took hold of the hand of the former, and in a second or two all three went under the water ; Pacey and the trumpeter again came up, but Shepherd was seen no more. Pacey several times dived under the water for the purpose of finding Shepherd, but without success. A rope was then procured from a house not far distant, which was placed round Pacey's shoulders, who again sought for Shepherd by diving, but all to no purpose. After the body had been in the water something more than two hours, a boatman of Loughborough named **Simmons**, who is an expert diver, went to the place, and having stripped, at once plunged into the water. In a few seconds, he again appeared upon the surface, and exclaimed, "I've got him", an announcement which was loudly cheered by hundreds of persons who were on the banks of the river. A rope was then thrown to Simmons, and both were drawn to the side. An inquest was held the following day, when the above facts were adduced, and a verdict in accordance returned. The place where the accident occurred is called the "Whirly Hole", and many persons have been drowned there when bathing. Deceased was twenty years of age, and was the son of respectable parents, who reside at Bristol.

#### 42 June 13 1860

**RETFORD** On Saturday afternoon, a little boy about six years of age, son of **William Bell**, a labourer at Mr White's wharf, whilst his father was engaged in delivering a cargo out of a boat lying in the canal basin alongside the wharf, by some means unobserved fell into the basin. He was missed very shortly, and on being looked for his cap was seen in the water. Search was at once made, and the poor little fellow was found in the basin, where he could not have been more than a quarter of an hour, life quite extinct. On Monday Mr Faulkner held an inquest on the body, when the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

#### 43 June 20 1850

**COUNTY HALL, NOTTINGHAM** **James Savage** was charged with neglecting to pay for the maintenance of his three children, who have become chargeable to the parish of Sutton Bonington. Defendant, who is a boatman, said he had left the money at Sandiacre to be taken to his brother, to whom he gave 6s a week to maintain them. It seemed however that this was not true, the children having been thrown upon the parish. Warrant withdrawn on the defendant promising to take the children out, and to pay the expenses &c.

#### 44 June 27 1850

**FATAL PUGILISTIC ENCOUNTER NEAR NOTTINGHAM** About two months ago, our columns contained an account of an inquest on the body of a man named Flowers, who had been killed in a fight with **George Thoms**. A verdict of manslaughter against Thoms, who has this week surrendered himself into custody, induced us to hope that a check would in future be put upon such occurrences in this neighbourhood, and that we should not again have the painful duty of recording

a case of fatality resulting from a similar proceeding. Our anticipations, however, have not been realised. An event of the same description, but under different circumstances, took place on Monday last in our immediate neighbourhood, the principal actors in the matter being persons resident in the town of Nottingham. The facts of this second case appear to be very startling, but we defer the animadversions we have to make on the subject until the inquest – indeed, until after the various parties likely to be accused of the crime of manslaughter have undergone a formal trial before a jury of their fellow townsmen. The circumstances of the case to which we allude, although for the present we are forbidden to publish the evidence, are these :- A few days ago, a match was made by some knights of the cleaver for a lad named Richard Hall to fight a youth named James Brown, for 10s a side. The latter was much the taller, stouter and stronger of the two ; but the former was exceedingly active, and was reputed to possess the greatest amount of fistic science. Monday morning last was the time appointed for the fight to take place ; and soon after five o'clock that morning the combatants, with a number of friends and backers, chiefly butchers, repaired to the Trent side, a short distance above the Wilford Ferry Boat. The town police and the rural force of the county had obtained a knowledge that a fight was about to take place, and two of the latter (Bixon and Pinnegar), after the borough police had driven them out of the boundaries of the town, were upon the watch, and prevented the encounter taking place in Nottinghamshire. They then walked on by the Trent Side until they arrived near Long Eaton Railway Station, just within the boundaries of Derbyshire, where the fight took place. A referee, time keeper and backers having been duly appointed, the deadly contest commenced. In the first round Brown received a severe blow between the right eye and temple, which felled him to the ground ; and in the course of the contest he was repeatedly thrown by his smaller but more active antagonist, who struck him many severe blows under his right ear. He also received much punishment on the face, chest and arms. Towards the middle of the fight, Hall wished Brown's backers to take their man away, declaring that if they did not he would not continue to hit him much longer. Brown, however, only laughed at him, and returned from each round with an apparent determination to annihilate his small adversary. After they had been fighting for an hour and a quarter, Hall cross buttocked Brown, falling heavily upon him. Brown was picked up by his seconds, but he was evidently unable to continue the fight, which was then declared to have been won by Hall. Brown, being unable to walk home, was carried to the Railway Station at Long Eaton and booked for Nottingham, but he died as the train was passing Beeston. On arriving at Nottingham, the body was conveyed to the General Hospital, where a *post mortem* examination was made by the resident surgeon, Mr White, who found severe external bruises under the right ear and about the temple. There was also a quantity of effused blood caused by the rupture of a small vessel, on the surface of the brain, no doubt produced by a blow. On Monday evening, Hall surrendered himself into the custody of the Nottinghamshire police, and the same night an inquest commenced sitting upon the body of the deceased, under the presidency of Mr Coroner Browne. After identifying the body, it was adjourned until yesterday (Wednesday), and then further adjourned to Friday night at six o'clock. Hall has been taken before the Mayor and remanded.

#### **45      June 27 1850**

##### **POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM**

**FATAL TERMINATION OF TWO FIGHTS** Richard Hall, aged 16, butcher, residing near Trinity Church, Nottingham, was brought up under the following circumstances :- At an early hour that morning, he went to the Mayor's house at Basford, where he waited several hours, wishing to give himself up. Kirk, one of the county constabulary, then went and apprehended him and brought him to Nottingham, he (Hall) wishing to be taken before the Mayor. He said that on the previous morning he fought a young man named George Brown, a butcher, near the Railway Station, for 10s a side. He had since been told that Brown was dead. Brown wanted to fight him. There were two seconds, and a butcher named Southgate was stakeholder. Brown wanted to give over fighting, but one of his backers (Breddon) would not let him. The fight lasted an hour and twenty minutes. The prisoner, a slim looking lad, apparently incapable of inflicting a fatal blow, was then remanded for

three days until the jury have delivered their verdict upon the case. Hall (the prisoner) did not seem terrified, but he appeared fully sensible of the painful nature of his position.

**George Thoms**, boatman, apparently about 19 years of age, was also placed before the Mayor, under similar circumstances. It will be remembered that about two months ago a fight took place on the Trent bank, near the Wilford ferry, between Thoms and another boatman named **Flowers**, aged about 20. The fight was the result of some provocation on the part of Flowers who, though small in size compared to Thoms, had frequently challenged him to fight. One day after Thoms had received some taunts from Flowers, they repaired to the Trent side, and fought for upwards of three hours. Thoms expressed his willingness several times in the progress of the fight to cease the disgraceful proceedings ; but Flowers, with many jeers, was determined to continue the contest, and he ultimately received a blow which produced congestion of the brain, and he died the same evening at a house in Narrow Marsh. An inquest was held over his body before Mr Coroner Browne, and a verdict of "Manslaughter against George Thoms" was returned. A coroner's warrant was accordingly issued for his apprehension, but he had been out of the way until Monday night, when he surrendered himself to Mr Barns at the watch house. He was committed to take his trial at the Assizes. (Both the above cases were heard in a private room).

#### **46 July 25 1850**

##### NOTTINGHAM SUMMER ASSIZES

**MANSLAUGHTER BY FIGHTING AT WILFORD** **George Toms alias Thoms**, aged 28, was charged on the Coroner's inquisition, on view of the body of Henry Flowers, with the manslaughter of the said Henry Flowers.

Mr Adams appeared for the prosecutor. The prisoner was undefended by counsel.

The case had arisen out of a fight which took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April last.

John Glenn was present on the Marsh Field on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. When witness first went into the field, deceased was lying on the ground with his coat and shoes off. The deceased had the best of the fight up to the three last rounds. He came up to his man singing "meet me by moonlight alone", and waving his finger. Prisoner then swung his arm around, catching the deceased under the left ear, and it was all over with him in a moment. He moved but once after, and never spoke. The men then went away, and witness said, "Surely you're not going to leave the poor fellow to die here, are you?" They however went away.

**John Davies**, a boatman, examined : Knew Henry Flowers, and saw the deceased and the prisoner together at the Loggerheads door that day. Saw them leave and go up the Marsh in company with five or six others. They went to the Trent side, and witness followed them. Flowers asked witness if he meant fighting, when he replied, "Yes, for I know you're dead on me". They stripped, and the deceased had the best of the fight. At the last round both men appeared to get weaker, when prisoner struck the deceased under the ear. He then fell down, and witness thought he was in a fit. Ran to fetch some water. Never heard deceased speak afterwards. It was a fair fight, and there was no advantage on either side. They were both rather better than half drunk.

Cross-examined by the prisoner : Did see the deceased hit prisoner on the thigh. Some one said if deceased hit prisoner that way again they would interfere.

James Slack deposed : Thought deceased behaved very badly. He abused the prisoner very much indeed, calling him the foulest names, making motions to him to come on, and singing in derision.

John Hunt, labourer, lodged in the same house as the deceased. Was in the Marsh Field when Flowers called to him to hold his clothes. Saw him fighting with the prisoner. Deceased was taken home in a cab, and he died on the following Thursday evening. The fight was on the Tuesday before.

Mr Unthank, surgeon, was called in to attend the prisoner, and found him suffering from congestion of the brain. The substance of the blow must have been delivered below the right ear. Does not think it was given front way. There were several contusions on the head and chest, and an effusion of blood between the scalp and cranium.

Prisoner said in his defence that he met with the deceased at the Loggerheads on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April,

when he came up to prisoner and said, "George, I've a crow to pluck with you". After this, they commenced quarrelling. On the following day, prisoner called at the Loggerheads, when the landlord warned him to be quiet. On leaving to go home, met the deceased in the passage, who stopped him and said, "Well, you've altered your mind, have you ; when do you mean to fight?" He (prisoner) consented ; the deceased abusing him and telling him to get measured for a coffin before he came to the place appointed. Prisoner went and got some ale, and was not on the ground for ten minutes after ; but he did go, and he was very sorry for it. He then called :-

Jane Wanex, charwoman at the Loggerheads, who was present when the quarrelling took place there. The deceased said all manner of things he could to provoke the prisoner, and wanted to fight him there and then ; but the prisoner manifested an unwillingness to turn again. Was not related to the prisoner, but had known him many years.

The Judge, in summing up, said : On reviewing the whole of the prisoner's conduct, it must be admitted that he showed the courage of a man, united with considerable forbearance, under all the existing circumstances. This much might be said in excuse of a man engaged in an illegal act.

The Jury found the prisoner Guilty, but recommended him to the mercy of the Court. To be imprisoned three days.

**MANSLAUGHTER BY FIGHTING AT LONG EATON** Richard Hall, aged 17, William Briddon, aged 28 and Thomas Peet, aged 20, were severally charged by the Coroner's inquisition on view of the body of James William Brown. Mr Adams conducted the prosecution ; Mr Miller defended Briddon.

Joseph Barker, examined : Is a bobbin and carriage maker. Deceased was cousin to witness. Went to the Trent side on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of June last ; found the prisoner Hall and some other men there, lying in a field. They were about to fight, when witness said to deceased, "Don't fight, Jem ; your mother's ill, and it might kill her". They turned off the walk by the Trent side, and struck into Derbyshire. The place of the fight was 5 miles from the place from where they started. The prisoner, Hall, and the deceased fought, and Peet, one of the other prisoners, seconded him. Hall had the best of the fight throughout. There were no knock down blows. Was not one of the backers himself – sucked deceased's eye, which was bunged up, after a round or two, sent for water to wash deceased – didn't know whether they fought for money – advised deceased to give over, but he replied that Hall couldn't hurt him. Deceased continued fighting, but Hall had the best of it, and could have punished deceased much more if he had chosen. At the last round, Hall struck him over the head, both closed in, and fell – raised him up, when he exclaimed, "Oh! My poor head! My poor head! Fetch me some water". He was then carried to the Railway Station ; one of the prisoners (Briddon) assisting. The railwayman would not allow the deceased to go by that train, so witness came on to Nottingham, as he had taken his place, and when they refused to take deceased, the train started, so he couldn't get out. The body was put into a cab and brought to Nottingham. Briddon had remained at the Station but did not come on to Nottingham. Brown was the strongest built man of the two, and much taller as well as older than prisoner ; but the latter had the advantage from his activity.

By Mr Miller : Briddon rendered all the help he could, whilst they were waiting for the next train. Briddon was the acting second of the deceased at one time, but not all the time of the fight.

James Hill, a tailor living at Nottingham, and whilst the fight was going on, witness went to the spot. Peet was then seconding Hall. Deceased was marked very bad. Only saw the middle of the fight. Is not acquainted with Briddon.

Cross-examined by Peet : Heard the prisoner Peet say, "If you don't take Brown away, I'll have no more to do with it". Peet then went away. This was after three rounds.

By the Judge : Didn't know where Peet went, but he was about 20 yards off when witness next saw him. They had had 3 or 4 rounds then.

Joseph Cook is a framework knitter, and went on Monday morning the 24<sup>th</sup> of June to see the fight. The police put them off at the first place, and the party then went into Derbyshire. Saw Charles Thompson there, and knew the prisoner Peet. Heard him say several times that he would go away

“if they did not take deceased away”, as if they didn't, he would soon want a coffin. Witness went away some rounds before the fight was over. Saw two policemen on the ground ; they went away to a stile about 120 yards off.

By the Judge : At the last round, the deceased struck Hall 3 or 4 times before he would return the blow. Brown would go on, but Hall wanted him to give over.

John Brown, father of the deceased, saw the body of his son in the hospital. Was aware that he intended to fight beforehand, and gave the police notice of it. Found out that he was in training, and told his mother about it.

John Palmer of Long Eaton, constable, went out with the intention of stopping the fight, having seen some men together. Met Hall and the deceased going to the station. The latter was very much punished. They gave him some brandy, and the prisoner Briddon was very kind to him. When in the carriage and near Beeston, the deceased drew his mouth a little on one side, and witness never saw him breathe afterwards.

George Clay is a butcher living in Nottingham, and went to see the fight. Was present during the whole of the fray. Briddon seconded Hall during the early part of the fight. Thomas Peet seconded the deceased some of the time. Briddon sponged Brown – and all the prisoners seemed very active.

By the Judge : Was going to bathe, but went to the fight instead. Did not attempt to stop them. Thought it was no business of his.

Cross-examined by Hall : Never heard the prisoner Hall tell the deceased to give over. Never heard him (Hall) say he would not fight on, if deceased would not go away.

John Tebbutt, a butcher of Long Eaton, was present at the fight. Was there about ten minutes. Was examined before the Coroner. Brown was undermost when they both fell together in the last round. There was a ring of 50 people round the men.

By the Judge : Witness was not one of the backers. Was behind Hall, and saw them fall together. They seized each other, wrestled, and then fell. Brown's head fell on the ground first. Had nothing to do with it, and did not interfere.

The Judge : What? Never said anything when you saw those two men engaged in what even *you* must have known was in violation of the law? Never attempted to repress the fight? Tacitly consenting to what was then taking place, by being an indifferent spectator! You are as liable to an indictment as any of the prisoners at the bar. You were present when the peace was broken, and the law recognises you as a participator.

Witness said : He was not aware of it. He thought the parties chose to fight, he had nothing to do with it ; and believed he could not have prevented them.

George Pinnegar, one of the Nottinghamshire Police, examined : Had heard of the intended fight the day before it took place. Went to the Trent side, and saw Briddon and the deceased. Informed them they would not be allowed to fight in this county. They went away, and witness saw them cross the division of the two counties. Remained in a field smoking a pipe. Thought he could pick out some of the names of the parties. Thompson (who has not been apprehended) was seconding Brown (the deceased). Briddon gave him some brandy. Saw the last round, but it was at a distance.

By the Judge : How came you to stand by and look on? Why didn't you interfere?

Witness : We had orders some time ago by the magistrates not to interfere out of the division of the county. Kept on the watch to prevent them fighting in the county of Nottingham.

The Judge : Instead of remaining there so long, it would have been better to have tried to give information to parties whom you thought could legally interfere.

Witness : My Lord, we remained for the purpose of identifying some of the parties.

Joseph White, resident surgeon of the Nottingham Hospital, received the body of the deceased on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. There were several external contusions on the head and chest, and the right collar bone was very much bruised. Attended the inquest held at the hospital, to give evidence in the case. At the *post mortem* examination (which was ordered by the Coroner), on the removal of the scalp there appeared an effusion of blood between the scalp and the cranium. The viscera was healthy, and witness believed that the effusion of blood, which appeared to have been caused by a blow, was sufficient in itself to cause the death of deceased.

George Clay, re-examined by Mr Miller : Briddon sent for the brandy ; he also left half a crown to pay for the medical attendance.

The prisoners were then severally called upon for their defence.

Richard Hall, the principal, said : It was a mutual agreement betwixt himself and the deceased that they were to fight, and a person was appointed as referee. When they had been fighting for about half an hour, Brown (the deceased) struck a foul blow. The referee cried, "Foul". Prisoner said to deceased, "Why don't you fight fair, or give over? Or, if you can't fight any longer, give over". Just before the last round, prisoner offered to give over, and was going away, when deceased came up and stopped him. In the last round they struggled together, and deceased fell undermost. After this round he offered deceased a shilling to give over, and perceiving the state he was in, sent for some brandy to revive him, ordered water also to be fetched. The fight was for ten shillings a side. When deceased was picked up, he could not stand by himself.

Thomas Peet : I was on my way, the morning of the fight, to the Trent side, for the purpose of taking a walk, when I saw several people going out together, and so I e'en went on with them. I didn't know that there was a bargain beforehand that they were to fight, or that Brown had been in training. When we all came up to the spot where the fight took place, Hall asked me, whilst taking off his things, if I would see him right ; I said I would, and I did so. When I saw that Brown had so much the worst of it, I told him to give over, and when he refused, I went away.

Joseph Hall, painter, was a witness to character. He said he had known Peet ever since he was an infant. He lived in the same yard, and was always a very peaceable lad in the neighbourhood.

The Judge, in summing up the evidence, observed upon the difference which the law recognised between one man taking the life of another, under the peculiar circumstances by which such an act was perpetrated. It might take place in self defence or accidental ; but in this instance a fellow creature had been deprived of life by persons in the prosecution of an illegal act. One of them, Hall, was charged with striking the blow, and the other prisoners were charged with being present and aiding and abetting ; they must therefore be considered as parties to the whole transaction. If this fact had been fully borne out by the evidence, the law regarded them as equally guilty with the principal. The Jury, after a brief consideration, returned a verdict of Guilty against Richard Hall, but recommended him to the mercy of the Court. William Briddon and Thomas Peet, Not Guilty.

The learned Judge, in sentencing Hall, said : It was a painful thing to see a young man like him placed in so fearful a situation. From the general tone of the evidence regarding his conduct, the Court had inferred that in all probability the prisoner would receive the benefit of a recommendation from the Jury. They had done so, and the Court joined with them in their kind and humane consideration, for although the prisoner went out deliberately, there were circumstances in his after conduct which in some measure palliated his grievous offence. With regard to the other prisoners, Briddon and Peet, if it had turned out in the evidence that they had backed Hall for money, then they would have been equally guilty with him ; for no possible excuse could be offered for those persons who turned out men like wild beasts to fight and tear each other to pieces. The prisoner Hall's conduct after the fight certainly recommended him to mercy. He did not strike a blow until one was given, and he behaved throughout with as much good will as could be expected from an antagonist in these disgraceful encounters. It would therefore be impossible for him to pass sentence upon the prisoner without having a due regard to the merciful consideration of the Jury. He should order the prisoner to be imprisoned for one calendar month.

Immediately the sentence was delivered by the learned Judge, the people in the body of the hall cheered with much vehemence.

#### **47 July 25 1850**

**COAL STEALING AT EASTWOOD** William Polkey, aged 29, boatman, and John Cayless, aged 25, boatman, were charged with stealing, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July instant at Eastwood, six tons weight of coal, the property of George Walker and others.

Mr Willmore conducted the prosecution, and Mr Adams defended the prisoners.

William Booth is the foreman to Mr George Walker, and the coals on the wharf from whence they

were taken are the property of Messrs Walker.

The agent for Messrs Walker at Langley Mill stated, a little after midnight on the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> he was on the watch, and saw the prisoners push a boat in which they were working from the other side, and they then took about seven tons of coal, put it into the boat, and went away down the river. Went for a policeman, followed them, and after walking about half a mile overtook and apprehended them. They said that they intended to pay for them. Never allowed boats to be loaded at one o'clock in the morning.

Cross-examined by Mr Adams : Did not know which side the horse came from which took the boat away. Never allowed anybody to load without producing a ticket, either before or after loading. The ticket was the voucher for the deficiency. Witness was looking on for two hours. Did not disturb them whilst they were loading because they would have said they only wanted some to gauge, and the conviction would not then have been complete.

William Smith is a gauger, and saw the prisoners' boat lying about 200 yards from Messrs Walker's wharf, about six o'clock on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> of July. Had gauged the boat twice that day.

John Shaw, a policeman, went with the first witness to apprehend the prisoners. When he took them into custody, Cayless said he intended to pay for them when he got to the White house.

Mr Adams made a very able defence on behalf of the prisoners, and concluded by calling several witnesses to the character of Cayless. Guilty.

Sentence deferred until Thursday.

#### **48 July 25 1850**

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS **John Mee**, a boatman, pleaded guilty to taking three bunches of currants from the garden of Zaccheus Kirk, and was committed for one month hard labour as a warning to garden robbers.

#### **49 August 15 1850**

COUNTY HALL, NOTTINGHAM **Thomas Bennett**, Thurmaston, boatman, was charged with, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June at Lenton, then having the care of a boat navigating the canal with a large quantity of bones, not having given an exact account of the tonnage to **Mr Richard Willoughby**, collector of the canal tolls. **Richard Smith**, owner of the boat, admitted that his man Bennett had not given the necessary account to the toll collector, but asserted that it was through ignorance, and not done wittingly. Convicted in the mitigated penalty of 33s.

#### **50 August 15 1850**

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS **William Hunt** of Barrow-upon-Soar, boatman, charged **William Cooksey**, boatman, with having, on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, contrary to the statute, filled and passed the "Paper Mill Lock" (near to Cossington) on the Leicester Canal when he, the complainant, was in sight with his boat coming up and within 300 yards of the Lock, and thereby entitled to pass the Lock first. Defendant said he was not there at the time, and knew nothing about it, he not seeing what was done, and he thought the company's servants, if any person, ought to have brought the complaint. Mr Dudley said he was responsible for the acts of those in his employ, and convicted him in a penalty of 20s and costs.

#### **51 August 22 1850**

BINGHAM **Samuel Millington**, boatman, was convicted in the penalty of 5s and costs for assaulting Francis Poole at East Bridgeford.

#### **52 August 22 1850**

RETFORD On Saturday morning last between four and five o'clock, a man named Watts was walking on the towing path of the Chesterfield Canal, a short distance from Retford, and very near the bridge in Babworth parish called "Lady Bridge", when he perceived a hat in the water ; he procured a rail to enable him to get the hat out, and on moving it, uncovered the head of a man

under it. Some other labourers who were going to their work were fortunately near, and to them he went for assistance, and by whose help they succeeded in getting the body out of the water ; after which it was conveyed to the sign of the Boat, West Retford ; where, in the course of the forenoon, it was identified by his daughter as the body of Jonathan Laughton, aged 53 years, for many years an inhabitant of East Markham, from which place he went to reside at Nottingham about two years ago, but had come over on a visit to his daughter at Retford, and had gone out on Friday with the intention of walking to Osberton, stating that he should be back again by nine o'clock that night, but had never been heard of until brought home a corpse. On Monday an inquest was held on the body, when a verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

### 53 August 22 1850

RETFORD **William Gray**, the master of a vessel trading between Stockwith and London called the *Violet*, appeared on the complaint of his brother, Joseph Gray, for an assault on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst at Stockwith. The affray rose out of some dissatisfaction which was felt by defendant at the manner in which, under the will of their late father who died the preceding year, the property had been left, and of which plaintiff was appointed an executor ; defendant alleging that he had been cheated by his brother. The defendant appears to have used most violent language, by which the complainant considered himself in danger ; the Bench therefore convicted and ordered defendant to pay 18s costs, and to be bound over in his own recognisances for £40 to keep the peace.

### 54 August 22 1850

DEATHS At Castle Donington on the 18<sup>th</sup> instant, **Mr Robert Walker**, boatman, in his 76<sup>th</sup> year.

### 55 September 26 1850

DEATHS At Fiskerton on the 21<sup>st</sup> instant, aged 66 years, **Mr Richard Baines**, waterman.

### 56 October 10 1850

ESCAPE OF CONVICTS On Friday night last, Robert Shenton, aged 33, labourer, formerly of Hanley in Staffordshire, and **Richard Harrison**, boatman, late of Knottingley near Pontefract, both Government convicts under sentence of transportation, made their escape from the Borough Gaol at Leeds, and have not yet been recaptured. In this case the two fellows, who worked and slept in the same cell, took out the window, and let themselves down by a rope. They were employed in making mats, some of the materials used for which, it is understood, they had manufactured into the rope which they had used.

### 57 October 17 1850

SOUTHWELL

POACHING On Sunday night last, **Thomas Robinson** of Clayworth, boatman, was caught poaching on lands belonging to John Vesse Machin Esq of Gateford Hill near Worksop, by Pearce, gamekeeper to the above named gentleman. There were two other men with the prisoner, but they effected their escape. About 80 yards of netting were secured. Only one rabbit had been obtained. The prisoner was taken before Sir T W White, Bart, and Robert Ramsden Esq, and committed to Southwell House of Correction, at the expiration of which time he will be required to find sureties, two in £5 each and himself in £10, or to be imprisoned for a further term of six months.

### 58 October 24 1850

VIOLENT ASSAULT A few days ago, a boatman named **Joseph Newton** came to Nottingham from an adjoining town for the purpose of unloading a boat on the canal at Nottingham. He went to the Crown and Anchor Inn, London Road, where he found a number of other boatmen ; but not being a member of the Association they picked a quarrel with him, and so savagely assaulted him that his spine and skull were severely injured. He contrived to creep to the Navigation Inn, where he was attended by Mr Maltby until Sunday last, when he was removed to the General Hospital,

where he still lies in a precarious state.

**59      October 24 1850**

RETFORD MICHAELMAS SESSIONS    **James Hewitt**, aged 19, and **William Footitt**, aged 19, both boatmen, pleaded guilty to stealing, at East Retford on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, some mutton and other articles, the property of Joseph Beeston and another. They were ordered to be imprisoned 14 days with hard labour.

**60      October 31 1850**

WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH    On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the White Hart, Lenton, before Mr C Swann, on the body of **Elizabeth Roworth**, aged 71. The deceased was a woman of weak mind, and lived with her husband, who is a canal lock-keeper, at Lenton. On Monday night she told her husband that he was not "her William", and ordered him out. He left her to pacify her, and went into a neighbour's house. In a short time he heard his wife knocking, and returning into his own house he found deceased on the floor, enveloped in flames. She died before the flames could be extinguished. Verdict : "Accidentally burned".

**61      November 7 1850**

SOUTHWELL PETTY SESSIONS, NOVEMBER 1    Mary, the wife of Richard Guy of Fiskerton, labourer, was charged with assaulting **Ann**, the wife of **Joseph Rhodes** of the same place, boatman. Each paid their own costs.

**62      December 12 1850**

DEATH FROM BURNING    On Saturday last, an inquest was held at the Woolpack in Sussex Street, on the body of **John Higginbottom**, aged four years, son of **John Higginbottom** of Sussex Square, boatman. It appeared that about half past three o'clock on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, the deceased caught fire in the temporary absence of his mother. He ran into the street enveloped in flames which, with some difficulty, were extinguished by some neighbours. A surgeon was called in, but the child was so severely burned that he gradually sank and died on Saturday morning last. Verdict : Died from being accidentally burned.

**63      January 9 1851**

RETFORD EPIPHANY SESSIONS    **Henry Radford**, aged 25, a boatman, pleaded not guilty to a charge of stealing two pieces of beef and two chains, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October last, from a boat, the property of George Burley of Misterton. Mr Willmore conducted the prosecution ; Mr Barker appeared for the defence. **George Burley** stated that he was a boat owner residing at Misterton, that on the 1<sup>st</sup> October he, in company with prisoner, worked the boat from Torksey to Gainsborough. Before leaving Gainsborough, he had a mop, chains and some beef on board. He left the boat at Gainsborough bridge, and joined it again at Stockwith ; **Abraham Barthorpe** and **John Flintham** were in charge of it, to work it from Gainsborough. Witness joined the boat about 7 o'clock in the evening, and missed the gears ; he searched his own boat, and then went to look on that where prisoner worked, when he found a chain which used to hang on a nail in his own cabin. He also found some meat, which he thought looked like his own ; it was laid on the bed board. On identifying them he took the chain to his own boat, and the beef to his house. Afterwards he went for a police officer, and both went and compared the piece of beef left in witness's boat with that found with the prisoner ; and they corresponded. Witness afterwards found he had lost a long chain, but prisoner's boat had then gone up the canal. Witness and policeman then went forward to Retford and met the boat, but found nothing. Police officer Filcher then produced a chain and mop which witness identified as his. Charles (sic) Flintham said he was sent by Burley to meet his boat coming from Gainsborough, and to help to bring it to Stockwith. He got to it about 4 o'clock, and found prisoner's boat alongside that of prosecutor's. Prisoner went with witness from Stockwith. Prisoner said to him (witness), "We have eaten all our meat on board our boat, but Burley has

plenty, and I will have a boiling or two off his". He (prisoner) also said Burley had a long chain which would make nice gears to swing lumber into the boat with. Witness assisted in hauling the boats up the river, but knew nothing more till he heard of the meat being found in prisoner's boat, when he told Burley what had been said to him by the prisoner. After much more evidence and a lengthy summing up, the jury found the prisoner guilty, but recommended mercy. To be imprisoned 6 weeks with hard labour.

**John Burrige**, aged 40, boatman, was charged with stealing at Drakeholes, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December last, 56 lbs weight of clover, the property of Joseph Hopkins. Prosecutor stated that he had observed clover to have been cut from his stack, and had traced it to the head of the canal tunnel. He gave information to the police, who went in search with witness to West Stockwith, where they found in prisoner's boat a sack of clover corresponding with that in the stack. Verdict : Not Guilty.

**John Johnson**, aged 54, a boatman, was charged with feloniously receiving at Walkeringham, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December last, a quantity of fowls, well knowing them to be stolen, the property of Mr A Atkinson of Langhome, near Walkeringham. Mr Atkinson deposed to having recently lost a great number of fowls from his premises, similar to some then produced. Ann Moor identified two of them as Mr Atkinson's property, and deposed to missing 8 out of 12 which usually roosted in a particular tree. Defendant said he knew nothing about the matter. Guilty. To be imprisoned 4 months, the last week solitary.

#### **64 January 16 1851**

##### DEATHS

TOPLIS At the General Hospital, Nottingham, on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, **John Toplis**, boatman, Ten Bells' Yard, Narrow Marsh, aged 27.

#### **65 February 6 1851**

DETERMINED SUICIDE AT THE TRENT BRIDGE On Saturday last an inquest was held before Mr C Swann, coroner, at the house of Mr G Poole, the Navigation Inn, Trent Lane, on the body of a man named Jeremiah Hind, aged 58, widower, Radford, who committed suicide by drowning himself in the canal under the following circumstances :- **William Smith** of Mill Street, Nottingham, boatman, deposed that about 8 o'clock this morning (Saturday), as he was walking along the London Road in company with his cousin, a man shouted to them when near the Toll Gate that another man was drowning, and asked us to come back. We ran back and saw the deceased in the canal, on the Trent Bridge side of the Canal Bridge and nearly in the middle, struggling in the water, and kept going up and down. We got a thin bar of iron and tried to reach him with it, but could not ; and then witness crossed over to the opposite side of the Canal and tried to reach him with it, but deceased struggled away from his hold. We then got a rope and threw it over him, and told deceased to get hold of it, and witness would pull him gently out, but he would not attempt to catch hold of the rope. He stared at us, but never spoke. We threw the rope in four or five times, but whilst deceased had strength he did not try to get hold of it ; but when he became rather exhausted he made an attempt, but could not, and immediately afterwards sank, and was not seen again. Witness believed deceased was in the water about ten minutes before he disappeared. It seemed to witness that deceased purposely avoided getting hold of the rope, and that he was determined to drown himself. We procured a boat and got his body out, which was removed to the above house. Police-constable George Poole deposed that, about half past six o'clock this morning he saw the deceased walking down the canal side, upon the coping stones close to the canal, and looking with extreme earnestness into the water. Witness did not speak to him. A person named Richard Truswell came up to witness, and said, "Master, what are you doing of? You are looking at this man going to drown himself". The deceased heard plainly what Truswell said to witness, but took no notice of it. About a quarter to 8 o'clock witness saw the same man standing under the bridge against the Toll Gate for about ten minutes, when witness told the Toll Gate keeper and

others of it, and whilst witness was telling them of him, deceased was seen in the water by another man. Several parties immediately tried to get him out, but he was quite dead before they were enabled to do so. Police-constable Osborne, stationed at the Trent Bridge, searched the deceased's pockets, and found a silver watch, two or three combs, two knives, fourpence three farthings, and a bottle full of liquid labelled "Laudanum, Poison". Deceased for the last few days had been living at the house of his niece, Elizabeth Fletcher, Birch Row, New Radford, and was observed by her to be in a very low desponding way. He left her house between nine and ten o'clock the previous night, and was not seen anything more of until he was found by the canal side. He got his living by selling stockings. Verdict : "That the deceased drowned himself, he being in an unsound state of mind at the time".

#### **66 February 20 1851**

DEATHS At Chesterfield on Saturday last, **Mr James Mason**, boatman, aged 65 years.

#### **67 February 27 1851**

CASTLE DONINGTON **William Winfield**, a boatman of this town, lost his life by drowning in the river Trent at Gainsborough on Friday morning last, leaving a wife and large family to deplore his loss. The body of Isaac Holden of Shardlow was also found in the same river, and about the same time, which had been under water for several weeks. Both bodies were brought for interment to Castle Donington.

#### **68 March 13 1851**

NEWARK

DEATH FROM DROWNING On Saturday night last, **Diana Green**, the wife of the owner of a boat plying on the Trent, who was in the habit of accompanying her husband in his voyages, and with whom she lived on board, was on the deck and accidentally fell into the stream, whilst the boat was moored near Farndon, and was consequently drowned. An inquest was held on the following Monday over the body, at the Britannia public house before P R Faulkner Esq, Coroner, when a verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned.

#### **69 March 20 1851**

DEATH FROM BURNING On Tuesday last, an inquest was held before Mr Coroner Swann at the Boat Inn, Beeston, on the body of **Matthew Palethorpe**, aged four years, son of Matthew Palethorpe, boatman, Beeston Ryelands. On Saturday afternoon last, the deceased's clothes caught fire, and he was so much burned that he died the same night. Verdict accordingly.

#### **70 March 20 1851**

COUNTY HALL, NOTTINGHAM

DREDGING IN THE TRENT **Joseph Smith** was charged with having, on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant at Colwick, committed certain injury to certain real property, namely the bed of the river Trent, by taking away about forty tons of gravel, the property of Mr Anthony Hammond and another. Mr Bowley appeared on behalf of the defendant. John Voce stated that on the day in question he saw the defendant dredging in the Trent for gravel on the Colwick side, the ownership of which belonged to the trustees of William Musters Esq. Mr Hawkes, agent to W Musters Esq, proved that 10s damage had been done. Mr Bowley in the first place contended that the whole of that part of the Trent belonged to Earl Manvers, to whom the defendant had agreed to give 3d per ton for gravel; and secondly, presuming the north side of the Trent belonged to Mr Musters, that the defendant was dredging on the other side, and that he wanted Voce, who had laid the information, to measure the distances. He adduced no witnesses in proof of the first point, but called **George Caunt, George Mather** and **John Holden**, the defendant's assistants, who stated that Smith wanted to measure the distance to see if he was not dredging in Lord Manver's property, but that Voce said it was not worthwhile. The defendant was convicted in the penalty of 10s, the amount of the

damage, and ordered to pay 17s 6d, the expenses.

**A DRUNKEN QUARREL** **John Davis**, a boatman, was charged with having assaulted a man named Watson, and endangered his life. It appeared that on Tuesday night the two men were drunk and quarrelled. While fighting, the prisoner threw the other combatant violently to the ground, and so severely injured him that his life was at first despaired of. He was taken home, and with proper surgical treatment he was soon placed out of danger, although still unable to leave his bed. On entering into his own recognisance to appear again when required, the prisoner was discharged.

## **71 March 27 1851**

**THE CENSUS** Before we are privileged again to address our readers, a periodical operation of the most important kind will have taken place, that of "numbering the people". This is an event which we cannot but regard with special consideration. It will not only open before us a page of the gravest import in relation to the social statistics of the present year ; it will not only disclose the ebbing and flowing of the tide of population, shewing by contrast where prosperity has induced men to congregate together, and where the process of decay has thinned the inhabitants ; but it must be borne in mind that, for ten years to come, legislation upon the most important political measures will be based upon the returns of the forthcoming census. How important it is then that these returns should be strictly accurate ; and this calls for a remark or two upon the machinery which has been devised for attaining the object in question. The Census is to be taken under the direction of the officials connected with the Registration of Births and Deaths, and a staff of enumerators – comprising, with the Registration Officers themselves, upwards of 40,000 persons – is appointed to go from house to house for this purpose. During the present week, the enumerators will leave blank schedules at every house to be filled up by the occupier ; and on Monday next the schedules will be collected throughout the United Kingdom. These schedules must contain the name and surname of every person who shall have slept in the house on the night of Sunday next, describing the relation to the head of the family, or whether a visitor or servant – the condition, whether married, single &c – the sex, age rank, profession or occupation, and where born. There is also a column for noting such persons as are deaf and dumb, or blind. Elaborate instructions for filling up the schedule are printed on the back, and considering the gigantic nature of the operation, and the importance of the statistics which it will afford, it is desirable that every occupier should carefully read the instructions and endeavour to furnish an accurate and intelligible return. We may add that persons who refuse to give correct information are liable to a penalty of FIVE POUNDS. Miners, potters and other workpeople who are out at work on the night of March 30<sup>th</sup>, but who will be at home on the following day, are to be entered in the schedule of the house in which they reside ; and persons travelling by railways or otherwise on the night in question must be returned at the hotel or house at which they stop on Monday morning. There is also provision for the enumeration of boatmen on canals, seamen and other like persons. Another department of the Census has reference to public institutions, such as workhouses, infirmaries, gaols, lunatic asylums &c. What a record will the returns from such places unfold, of destitution, crime, misfortune and suffering! We have not seen the forms which are to be issued to institutions of this kind, but we should conceive they will be sufficient to furnish statistics of a valuable nature, however melancholy to reflect upon. Thus far, the object to be achieved is very desirable, and we think it is calculated to produce a considerable amount of valuable information. But there are other returns to be procured relative to churches and places of public worship which are to set forth the religious sect to which each building belongs, the amount of accommodation, and the average number of the congregation ; and also returns for schools, both public and private. Religious and educational statistics of a proper kind and to a certain extent may be desirable, by way of an addenda to the Census, but the manner of obtaining them on the present occasion, as also the nature of some of the questions to be answered, have justly called forth considerable animadversion both in and out of Parliament. We consider the arrangements which have been made for procuring these statistics to be anything but satisfactory, and the returns will in some degree be open to suspicion. The answers will be voluntary, but there

is a looseness in the way of obtaining them of which we do not approve ; and we confidently expect much evasion and exaggeration. Incorrect statistics may be productive of considerable mischief ; and we would recommend the clergy, especially in country villages, to look to these returns themselves. So far as regards the church, the clergy and they alone ought to be the parties to make the returns, if made at all ; but they may be procured without even the knowledge or supervision of the clergy, and it is of this we complain. The matter is inquisitorial, and to be regarded with jealousy.

### **72 March 27 1851**

**LOUGHBOROUGH** An inquest was held by T Gregory Esq, coroner, at the Ram Inn, Rushes Street, Loughborough, on Friday afternoon, on the body of **Rees Conquest**, a captain of a boat belonging to Mr Payne, Market Harborough. It appears that he was helping to unload a boat on Friday morning, which came from Harborough to Mr Orgill's wharf on the Derby Road, Loughborough, when he suddenly fell into the boat, and life was extinct in a moment. He has left a wife and family to deplore his sudden loss. Verdict : "Died from disease of the heart".

### **73 March 27 1851**

**SUICIDE BY DROWNING** On Friday evening last, the family of Mrs Reddish, who resides in Mill Gate, Newark, were in great excitement and misery respecting a daughter named Mary Ann, who had left home that night for the purpose of taking a frock home ; she at that time appeared as usual. No tidings being heard of her, inquiries were made in all directions. Information however received at Newark that as a boat was nearing the bottom lock, one of the men, putting a pole out, raised up something heavy, and at the end of it there hung a shawl, but there being a flush in the river, the body was washed along. The shawl was taken to the police office, and the officers acquainted the family, who at once identified it as belonging to their daughter, and after dragging the river for some time, the body was discovered. On Saturday afternoon, an inquest was held by R Griffin Esq, deputy coroner, when the evidence of the following witnesses was taken :- **Henry Clay** of Newark, waterman, stated : I went with John Argon, Richard Simpson and John Archer to search for her, and after searching for two hours and a half, we found her in the river. She was dead. It was about half past one o'clock this day when we found her. I got the body into the boat we were using, and took it home as quickly as possible. John Bedford of Newark, wheelwright, deposed that he knew the deceased, and saw her last night in Kirkgate, Newark, about half past 8 o'clock, and saw her go over the Trent Bridge. He thought she seemed altered. He did not go further than his father's gate. Jane Simnet, wife of Joseph Simnet of Newark, hay cutter, deposed that the deceased was at her house in King Street last night, between half past seven and eight o'clock. She seemed rather abstracted in mind. I was obliged to speak to her two or three times before I could get an answer. She was not at any time a cheerful person. She had been living in service at Retford, and left there about three weeks since. She had bad health. She bore a good character. Verdict : "Found drowned".

### **74 April 17 1851**

**RETFORD COUNTY SESSIONS** Henry Marshall, charged with stealing, at East Retford on the 25<sup>th</sup> March last, a pig's chap, the property of Mr Frederick Taylor of the Anchor public house. Frederick Taylor, innkeeper, said : On 25<sup>th</sup> March he had a pig's chap hanging in his taproom. Prisoner came into the house, and soon afterwards prosecutor missed the chap. Prisoner went out for about ten minutes, and when he returned witness gave him in charge. A man named **Farr**, a boatman, was at Taylor's at the time prisoner came in, and saw him take the chap off a nail and put it under the seat. In about half an hour, he went out and took the chap with him. Guilty. Two months' imprisonment, one week solitary.

**75 April 24 1851**

COUNTY HALL, NOTTINGHAM

OBTAINING ALE UNDER FALSE PRETENCES John Mather was charged with having, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January last, obtained 7 quarts of ale and a bottle from Mr W Hickling, under false pretences. Mr Bowley attended for the prosecutor, Mr Hickling, of the Rose and Crown public house at Lenton, who has been in the habit of supplying the captain of a boat named **Stevens** with ale at different times. On the day in question, the prisoner went to the public house and asked for "Stevens's boat ale", and seven quarts were put into a bottle, with which he went away. The next time Stevens called at the Rose and Crown, the bill for the liquor was presented to him, and it then appeared that he had not sent the man. Committed for trial at the sessions.

**76 May 29 1851**

NOTTINGHAM POLICE OFFICE

WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS William Bosworth, aged 40, framework knitter, Grove Street, New Bridge Street (on his own recognisance) was charged with assaulting William Hull. Police-constable Lacy deposed that on Monday night, about half past eight o'clock, he was on duty in Derby Road, when the prisoner's wife went to him and wished him to go to the complainant in Mount Street, who had stolen a dog. He went with the prisoner, and the complainant came out of the Rose public house. Bosworth demanded his dog, and Hull told him it was not his and he should not have it. He further called the prisoner's wife very unseemly names, whereupon Bosworth deliberately struck him in the face. Prisoner : I struck him it is true ; but I was so abused by him that I couldn't stand by it any longer. The real facts of the case are these. Some time ago, I went away from the town, and was away a many years. My boy was in the employ of this man's (the complainant's) father (as captain of a boat). Well, gentlemen, in my absence my wife got married to this man's father, though she knew as how I was not dead. Well, when I came back and found what transactions had been going on, I took my boy away from this man's father, but they wouldn't give him his clothes. My wife also came back. Well, this man kep' a dog, and when my boy came away it come with him, and we have had it better than a year and a half. This man stole it from my wife at the stall. The complainant remarked that the dog was his property, and had been stolen from him by the prisoner's boy. As to the woman, he would not say a word, as she had two husbands in the room at that very identical time. The prisoner was discharged on paying the expenses, and promising good behaviour in future. After the disposal of the case, Hull senior, the second husband of the dainty Mrs Bosworth, marched up to the Bench and, touching his forelock, asked their "honours whether the woman could contract debts in his name, and he be answerable?" The magistrates replied that it was no part of their duty to decide points of law for anyone who might solicit their opinion, and referred Hull senior to an attorney.

**77 July 24 1851**

A MAN FOUND DEAD IN A BOAT On Thursday last, an inquest was held before Mr Coroner Swann at Limekiln Inn, Cropwell Butler, on the body of **Richard Welsh**, aged 55, boatman, a bachelor. The deceased was employed by **William Rundall**, boatman, and was in charge of an empty boat lying in the Grantham Canal. For the last week or two he had been in an ill state of health, and was very unwell when his master last saw him alive on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup>. On the Wednesday following, his master again went to the boat, and on going into the cabin, he found deceased undressed in bed, quite dead. His flesh was warm, and he had apparently died in his sleep. Verdict : "Found dead in a boat from natural causes".

**78 July 24 1851**

MAN SAVED FROM BEING DROWNED On Sunday morning at a very early hour, while on duty near the wooden bridge, Meadow Row, Nottingham, Police-constable Thomas Mather heard a groaning as if proceeding from the canal. On hastening to the place, he found a man tossing about to and fro in the water, evidently unable to preserve a proper equilibrium. He succeeded in

extricating him, when he found the unfortunate fellow was John Parry of Stapleford, who had got drunk, lost his road, and floundered into the canal. When he had recovered somewhat from the effect of his dousing, he was taken to the house of his brother-in-law, Mr John Smith, Lister Gate, Nottingham.

## 79 July 24 1851

GRAND JURY ROOM, THURSDAY

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AT CLARBOROUGH John Holmes, horse dealer aged 19 ; Alice Smith alias Holmes, gipsy aged 19 ; **Joseph Woodward**, boatman aged 21 ; **William Footit**, boatman aged 21 ; and **John Rayner**, boatman aged 20 were charged with feloniously assaulting Thomas Stubbins on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> June at Clarborough, putting him in bodily fear, and stealing from his person four half crowns, five shillings and three sixpences in silver coin, and other articles, his property.

Mr Jessel appeared for the prosecution, the prisoners were undefended.

Thomas Stubbins, labourer, said on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> June I was at the Woolpack in Retford, where I remained until twelve at night. The prisoners were there also. I had some money in my purse, and some loose coin in my pocket. When I left the public house I went down the Market Place and along Grove Street in the direction of Little Gringley, and when about a mile from the public house, and about a hundred yards from the canal, the female prisoner came up to me and asked me if I would have anything to do with her. I said no, and immediately after Footit and Rayner came up and said I must give the woman 5s, which I refused : they then knocked me down, and said they would make me give it her. They struck me over the face with their fists, and blacked my eye. The woman held me and struck me also. After that I got away, but was directly afterwards knocked down by two of the others. Woodward was one of the two. They knocked me down a second time, and the woman put her hand in my pockets, and took 17s, a knife and a tobacco box out, which I had safe a few minutes previous. When I got up again, I was held by one of the men whilst the others beat me. My eyes were filled with blood, so that I could not see which struck me. The box now produced is the same which was taken out of my pocket. By the prisoner Holmes : I never saw you when I was attacked. I never treated the bad woman with gin and rum, I never kissed and huddled any of them. (Laughter). There were a good many women in the house. By Alice Smith : You struck me above a score times. By Woodward : I never recalled wanting to fight an Irishman. By Footit : I left you all in the Woolpack when I came away.

John Gosling, police-constable stationed at East Retford, said that on the morning in question, the prosecutor came up to me in the Market Place, covered all over with blood, and in consequence of what the prosecutor said, I went in search of the prisoners, accompanied by Police-constable Brown and Superintendent Kinder. I apprehended the woman about two o'clock in the morning, and Holmes about twelve o'clock the next day. After hearing the charge, the woman said, "If one suffers they all shall, and is that not fair, master?", and when removing her into another cell, she said, "I'll tell you God Almighty's truth ; I did not know where they were taking me to". When I apprehended Holmes, his jacket was all over blood, and I said, "Holmes, what's amiss with your coat?", and he said, "You know ; it's last night when we were fighting, and I only gave him four punches". I went to Footit's house and received a "slop" now produced, covered with blood, and in it was a tobacco box, which Footit said belonged to him.

Police-constable William Brown accompanied the last witness to the ground where the quarrel took place, and found a pocket, in which he found a knife, and on showing them to the female prisoner, she said they belonged to her, and that he was to take care of them. The woman said to Woodward, "Mr Fiddleall, you are one". Woodward replied, as I was putting him in another cell, "She is a b----, she is telling all about it".

Police-constable Robert Cheetham conducted the prisoners to Nottingham, and on the road Woodward said, "I am as innocent as a child". Alice Smith said to Woodward, "You was there, and ran down a field". Holmes then said, "I did not get any of the money, but I gave the b---- three b--- good kicks".

The prisoners declined saying anything to the jury.  
His Lordship summed up, and the Jury returned a verdict against all the prisoners except Holmes.  
A former conviction was proved against Footit, at the East Retford General Quarter Sessions.  
Each prisoner seven years' transportation.  
The Court rose at half past six o'clock.

**80 September 25 1851**

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

CHARGE OF STEALING A BOAT HOOK **William Hull**, aged 34, boatman, Birch Row, was brought up by Inspector Raynor, charged by William Fielding with having stolen a boat hook a year and a half ago. The alleged offence having been committed in the county, he was sent to the Shire Hall.

**81 October 2 1851**

CHILD DROWNED IN THE TRENT On Sunday afternoon about five o'clock, a little boy named John Brizil, aged six years, while crossing a plank under the first arch of the Trent Bridge, slipped and fell into the river, and sank immediately. Several other children were under the arch, and they gave an alarm, and the place was dragged ; but the body was not discovered until Monday evening, when it was found by **William Rutherford**, a boatman, near the second abutment under the arch. The deceased's father is an Irish labourer living in Sandy Lane, Nottingham. The boy had left home on Sunday morning. Verdict : "Accidentally drowned".

**82 October 2 1851**

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

ASSAULT AND ROBBERY **Frederick Jones**, 21, boatman, living in Narrow Marsh, and John Clay, aged 20, framework knitter, Abinger Street, were brought up by Police-constables Wilkinson and McIntyre, charged with assaulting Ely Nelson in Narrow Marsh, and taking from his person three sovereigns and 30s in silver, on Tuesday night. The prosecutor is a pensioner living at New Stenton. He went to the Ten Bells public house in Narrow Marsh on the day in question, to get change for a £5 note. They could not accommodate him, but he ultimately got it changed at another place, and returned to the Ten Bells, where he sat for a short time. During the evening he noticed the prisoners loitering about the house, and on going out about eight o'clock, they met him in the passage, one placing his hands over his mouth, while the other rifled his pockets of their contents. He could swear to both the prisoners, having seen one by gaslight, and hearing the other while robbing him say, "It's all right". They were remanded to the House of Correction for seven days.

**83 October 16 1851**

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MICHAELMAS SESSIONS

STEALING SOAP **George Whitby**, aged 23, boatman, pleaded not guilty to having, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July at Basford, stolen five pounds weight of soap, the property of the Midland Railway Company. Mr Adams prosecuted ; the prisoner was undefended. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, a goods' train took three chests of soap to Basford station, addressed to T B Milnes, bleacher. On the following day the station master's son was going to feed his rabbits in the goods' shed, when he saw the prisoner with a long piece of soap in his hand. On seeing him, the prisoner put the soap down. The boy withdrew behind a door to watch, and the prisoner then picked up the soap and was preparing to take it away, when the lad again showed himself. The prisoner appeared confused, and having put the soap down again, he asked the boy if he would have a glass of ale. He replied in the negative, when he said, "I'm hard up ; if you will not say anything about it I will give you sixpence when I come again". The boy told his father, and information was given to the police, and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September Thomas Leaper, one of the county force, apprehended him on Derby Road. He charged him with the robbery, upon which he said, "You've got the wrong man". "Nay", replied Leaper, "Isn't your name George Whitby?" "No", responded the prisoner, "My name's Joe Smith". On his way to the

station, he said his name was John Whitby, and that he had a brother named George, who was perhaps the man ; but when he got to the station, he admitted that his name was George Whitby. On being asked by the chairman if he had anything to urge in his defence, the prisoner said “he knowed nowt about it”. Guilty. One calendar month to hard labour.

#### **84      October 23 1851**

**A BOATMAN DROWNED IN THE TRENT** On Saturday last, an inquest was held before Mr Coroner Swann at the Bell Inn, Attenborough, on the body of **Ralph Clayton**, aged 43, of Sutton Bonnington, boatman. On Thursday afternoon last, between 3 and 4 o'clock, the deceased was employed by John Spiers of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, to steer a barge up the Trent. On reaching the bend of the river at Attenborough, he ran the vessel on to a bank. He jumped out, and pushed the head of the boat off the bank, and the vessel floated into deep water before the deceased had succeeded in getting in. He clung to the side but, being intoxicated, he suddenly let go his hold, and sunk into the water. Several persons were on the embankment but none dare attempt a rescue, and the man was drowned. His body was not discovered until the following day, when it was found in very deep water, about 20 yards from where he had been seen to sink. It appeared that for three or four hours before starting from Beeston Ryelands, he had been drinking until he became intoxicated. Verdict : “Accidentally drowned while in a state of intoxication”. He has left a wife and seven children.

#### **85      October 23 1851**

**RETFORD COUNTY SESSIONS** **Joseph Hindley**, aged 59, a boatman, charged with stealing, on the 12<sup>th</sup> October last at Ordsall, near Retford, two pieces of wood, the property of Mr Thomas Watson. Guilty. To be imprisoned three months with hard labour – the last week in each month solitary.

**John Johnson**, aged 28, a waterman, for stealing, at Shire Oaks on the 11<sup>th</sup> July last, one horse collar and one pair of hames, the property of Matthew Beard, was found not guilty and discharged.

#### **86      November 27 1851**

##### **NEWARK**

**EMBEZZLEMENT** On Monday last, a case of embezzlement was brought before the magistrates at the Town Hall. Thomas Seddon appeared upon a charge of having extracted from the till of his employers, Messrs Kitchen and Woolfit, wholesale grocers residing in the Market Place, certain amounts of silver, to wit, five half crowns, such being the current coin of the realm. Mr Kitchen stated that he lived in the Market Place, and was co-partner with Mr Alfred Woolfit, and that they carried on the business of grocers there. The prisoner Seddon had been in their employ about three months, he came into their service in March last, but it might be less than that, and latterly he had strong suspicion that the firm had been robbed, and to some amount too. In order to put the case to a satisfactory test, he marked seven half crowns, found with a W, the other three were marked with a B, and there were nine shillings similarly marked. He gave to Mrs Elizabeth Pearce (his mother-in-law) four of the half crowns marked B, 1851 ; he delivered them to her for the purpose of buying groceries at his shop. This occurred on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> instant, at about 12 o'clock, and he left the shop in the course of a quarter of an hour. He observed two customers enter the shop and he saw them go out again, one was a male and the other a female. He did not know who they were. When he returned, he went to the kitchen and saw Mrs Pearce. He went to the till and examined the money, and there found that some of the money he had marked was gone. Shortly afterwards he sent for the police, and called the prisoner into the house, and said to him, “I find I am suffering a loss, and I suspect you”. He then requested the officer (W Baker) to examine the contents of his pockets ; the prisoner replied, “Oh, yes”. The officer found on him a quantity of gold and silver, amongst which there were five of the marked half crowns, four of which bore the marks of “B, 1851”, and the other one a “W”. He thought the mark was on the head side. He told the officer that

the coins then produced were those he had marked. The prisoner was then taken into custody. Mrs Elizabeth Pearce corroborated the evidence as regards the forwarding of the money to the shop, and said she knew that a certain portion was marked. **Letitia Hurst**, wife of **Thomas Hurst**, a boatman, said that on the day in question she went to the prosecutor's shop, and the prisoner waited upon her. Mrs Pearce had given to her some money in a paper ; she did not know that such money was marked ; she went to buy some groceries for Mrs Pearce, and paid 10s for them. The prisoner gave her 3 ½ d in change ; and she took the copper to Mrs Pearce with the parcel of grocery. She saw no mark on the coin. William Baker, police officer, stated that the prisoner turned out of his pockets the identical half crowns produced, and he then conveyed him to the lock up. The prisoner in his defence requested that the clerk of the court would be kind enough to take down in writing what he had to say, which, however, added nothing to relieve himself from the woeful predicament in which he is placed.

### **87 December 25 1851**

SOUTHWELL PETTY SESSIONS **James Archer** of Newark-upon-Trent, boatman, apprehended by Inspector Wimant on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst at Hazleford Ferry, charged with stealing a whip, the property of Mr W Heather of Bleasby, farmer, was committed to take his trial at the next quarter sessions to be holden at Newark. Bail was accepted for his appearance.

### **88 January 1 1852**

#### LOUGHBOROUGH

DISCOVERY OF THE BODY OF AN OLD MAN IN THE CANAL On Monday morning last, about eight o'clock, the body of an old man about 64 years of age named Thomas Matthews was discovered in the canal by a boatman of the same name, residing in Banbury, Oxfordshire. He was immediately got out, and conveyed in a cart to All Saints Church, Loughborough, which is a short distance from the canal. On the same evening, an inquest was held on the body of the deceased at the Durham Ox before J Gregory Esq, coroner, and a jury. Sarah Turton, on being sworn, deposed that the deceased was a coach builder, and that she had known him for a considerable time before his death. She believed he was about 64 or 65 years of age. He went to her on the previous night about six o'clock to borrow an umbrella, as it was then raining, and he wished to go to church. He had been very infirm for some time past, and had occasionally appeared quite childish. While he was eating some pudding on the previous day (Sunday), he told her that he should not be alive at night ; but this she did not notice, as he had frequently made such observations. The deceased received 8s a week from his brother in Ireland, and did not appear to be in want of anything. He was quite sober when he left her house to go to church. William Grundy, sexton of All Saints Church, deposed that the deceased went regularly to church. He used to go twice a day. He was in attendance as usual on Sunday night, but he (witness) had no conversation with him. Eliza Whitehead deposed that she saw the deceased standing against a barn in Moor Lane about nine o'clock on Sunday night. He had a stick in his hand and was standing as if considering what he should do. He afterwards went up the lane towards the canal, and she saw him no more alive. She did not observe any person following him. John Elliott, a farm servant, deposed that about eight o'clock that (Monday) morning, he found a stick on the slope of the bridge which crosses the canal near Moor Lane. He saw nothing in the water. He took the stick home, but returned in about an hour, at which time they were getting the body of the deceased out of the water. **Thomas Matthews**, a boatman residing at Banbury, Oxfordshire, deposed that he saw a hat floating in the canal on that morning, about eight o'clock, and on looking again perceived the body of the deceased near the bridge under which he (witness) had just passed. He immediately got assistance, and the body was taken out of the water and conveyed in a cart to All Saints Church. There were no marks of blood on his clothes or of violence on his person that he could see. William Wood, constable, stated that after having the body of the deceased removed from the canal, he searched him, and found two letters – one of which contained a Christmas present of 5s from a Miss Dennison of Daybrook, and the other was written by himself to his brother in Ireland. A purse, a key and 21s

were also found in his pockets, and 6 ¼ d in copper at the house in which he had lived. The deceased was very infirm before his death. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

**89 January 8 1852**

NEWARK BOROUGH POLICE **Thomas Walster**, boatman, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> ult in Kirk Gate ; the case not being satisfactorily proved, he was discharged.

**90 January 15 1852**

ADJOURNED COUNTY SESSIONS AT NEWARK **James Archer**, aged 49, waterman (on bail) pleaded not guilty on a charge of stealing one whip at Hazleford, the property of William Heather. Fourteen days with hard labour and solitary.

**91 January 15 1852**

RETFORD EPIPHANY SESSIONS The Grand Jury having been sworn, the chairman, G H Vernon Esq, delivered the charge. He said, "Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, I am glad to be able to inform you that the day, short as it is, will nevertheless be more than sufficient for the discharge of your duties, our calendar being happily very small. It is characterised by no peculiar circumstance, for it is undoubtedly not peculiar to these calendars that of the prisoners submitted to trial today, there are very few who have received a competent education. At this season of the year, crime is usually more prevalent, in consequence of the many dark hours and the difficulty of procuring employment, but in that latter respect happily our population does not seem to have laboured under any of the usual difficulties, for in the union house at this moment, there is a smaller number of inmates than I ever remember in the same month, and the circumstance of the great cheapness of provisions naturally leads to less destitution. Two circumstances which often increase the list of the calendar have been recently present in our locality ; one of them the construction of the Great Northern Railway, the other has been the obstruction of the canal. The boatmen who are employed upon the canal have been unhappily thrown out of work to a considerable extent. I am sorry to say that usually their habits as a class are not extremely honest, they being accustomed to petty pilfering; there are one or two of them before you today".

**Edward Holt**, aged 22, boatman, was charged with stealing, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December last, two pounds weight of bacon at East Retford, the property of George Popple. George Popple deposed : I am landlord of the Retford Arms Inn. On the 29<sup>th</sup> December about three o'clock in the afternoon, the prisoner and another man were in my taproom. The bacon was hanging up all right. I left the room, leaving the prisoner in the taproom. On my return I found some slices had been cut out. I looked at it immediately. I am sure it was not cut when the men came in. I followed the men, overtook them past the Horse and Jockey public house, asked them to return, which they did, went into the yard, when the prisoner turned and ran towards the privy. I asked him why he did not come home with me. He said if I stayed a while he would come. I then went for a policeman. When he came, we searched the privy and found the bacon there, two pieces which are my property. I afterwards compared the pieces with my fitches, and they corresponded. The prisoner said he had no questions to put to witness. John Massey, Police-constable, deposed : On the 29<sup>th</sup> of December, I apprehended the prisoner. I searched the privy at the Horse and Jockey and found two pieces of bacon. I have had them in my charge ever since. Prisoner said he knew nothing about being in the house at all. He was fresh at the time, and could not recollect it. Popple : He had one pint of ale and some bread and cheese. So far as I observed he was in liquor. There was a knife lying on the counter with which they might have cut the bacon. I have seen the prisoner once before at my house ; do not know his name. He said he came from Gainsborough. The prisoner was found guilty, and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment, the last week with hard labour.

## 92 January 22 1852

ROBBERY AT LANGLEY MILL On Monday evening last, on William Kidger, a stocking maker of Underwood, leaving the New Inn, Langley Mill, he was followed out by two men, supposed to be boatmen employed on the canal, who knocked him down and took from his pockets a half sovereign. They have since been seen by Shaw, the Eastwood police officer, but before he could secure them they escaped across the canal into Derbyshire, where he could not follow them. This, however, is a mistaken notion. Shaw was at liberty to apprehend them in any county on a charge of felony, especially if he had a warrant.

## 93 February 12 1852

### LOUGHBOROUGH

RECOVERY OF THE BODY OF THE LATE MR WEBSTER OF ROTHLEY The body of Mr John Webster who, it will be remembered, was accidentally drowned in the river Soar at Mountsorrel on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> ultimo, was seen floating in the river near to Barrow-upon-Soar on Monday morning last by a boatman named **George Cabbal**, and was immediately taken and conveyed to an empty house a short distance off, under the direction of Mr Bryan, constable of Barrow. An inquest was held on the body the same afternoon before John Gregory Esq, coroner, at the Navigation Inn, and by adjournment on the following (Tuesday) afternoon, when the following evidence was adduced :- George Cabbal, boatman, deposed that he was proceeding on the river Soar near Barrow between 8 and 9 o'clock on Monday morning, when he saw something dark coloured floating in the water, which he afterwards found to be the body of the deceased. He got the body out of the water with the assistance of Mr Oliver, landlord of the Navigation Inn, and Mr Bryan, parish constable, and it was conveyed to an empty house. Mr Bryan, constable of Barrow, deposed that he searched the deceased's pockets soon after he was taken out of the water, and found in them 7s 6d in silver, 5d in copper, two knives, a bill receipted by Mr Kirk of Mountsorrel, dated January 13<sup>th</sup>, and several other articles. The body was not disfigured, and the clothes were not disordered or torn, except one of the trousers knees which was a little torn. Bernard Webster, son of the deceased, deposed that he saw the body of the deceased on Monday morning, and identified it. His father was 53 years of age, and was brought up as a gentleman farmer. He left home about five o'clock on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> ult, and he did not see him again alive. When he left home, he said he was going to Mountsorrel. He had no watch with him, but had about 17s in money. He was in better spirits than usual, and appeared to be quite cheerful. He took a dog with him, which returned a little before seven o'clock on the following morning. As the deceased did not return, they began to fear something had befallen him, and he (witness) went to Mr Kirk's at Mountsorrel, and was told that his father had been there on Tuesday night, and had left the house about half past six o'clock. He and the Rev Mr Gray took the dog near the bridge in Sibley Lane on Thursday, and it stretched its neck out over the water and whined. It did this more than once. It was not taken to the water. The river was dragged daily for some time, but with no success, as the water was very high and the stream strong. John Kirk of Mountsorrel deposed that deceased was at his mother's house on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> ultimo, and paid a bill for coals amounting to ten shillings. He had one glass of ale and a pipe of tobacco. He did not see him leave the house, but he distinctly heard him bid his mother good night. It was about half past six o'clock when deceased left the house. He believed he was perfectly sober. His mother lighted him out. He was in his usual health and spirits, and appeared quite cheerful. Their house is about 40 or 50 yards from the bridge. On the left hand side is a stone wharf which extends to the bridge. The other side is bounded by the lane. On this side there are about nine or ten yards of open space between the rails and the bridge, and any person proceeding down the lane in the dark might easily walk into the river, by turning a little out of his way. He had heard of an exciseman named Mash walking into the river in the same manner as deceased, about four or five years ago. There was no flood when this occurred. There was a flood on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> ult, and the night was very dark. The water was flowing very rapidly and the flood gates were up. There was no light near the bridge. He, witness, considered the stone wharf very dangerous to the public on a dark night. There was nothing whatever in the deceased's

conversation or manner which would lead him to suppose that he had premeditated self destruction. The road near the bridge had been laid with granite a short while before the accident, and he had no doubt the deceased or any other person would go on the side where the rails were placed, in order to walk easier, as that side of the road would not be so rough. Mrs Mark Kirk corroborated what her son had stated, and added that she asked the deceased to take another glass of ale, but he refused to do so. She believed he was perfectly sober. She also stated that the deceased was short sighted and very deaf, and would not see the waters or hear the noise made by the stream. She had no doubt the deceased walked unconsciously into the water. Mr Joseph Goodacre, on being sworn, deposed that he knew the course of the water perfectly from Mountsorrel to the place where the deceased's body was found, and he thought it was very probable that the body would float that distance (which is about a mile), if the flood gates were up. He also corroborated the evidence given by Mr Bryan, the constable, as to the state of the body. The Rev John Henry Gray, curate of Rothley, deposed that he had known the deceased about four years, and had conversed with him on several occasions on spiritual matters. He believed him to have been a religious man, and was certainly not a person likely to commit self destruction. He was present with Bernard Webster, and could corroborate what had been said relative to the deceased's dog. At the request of Mr Samuel Wright, surgeon of Mountsorrel, Mr Pryor, surveyor of roads, was called in and sworn. He recollected three persons walking into the river and being drowned near the bridge. It was night, and they were all residents of Mountsorrel. The deceased was the fourth person who had walked into the river instead of going over the bridge. Other persons had fallen into the river over the wall which was very low. The bridge belonged to the county, and he considered it was not safe when there was so much traffic going over. The bridge was very narrow, and certainly dangerous to foot passengers. The walls too were much too low. The coroner said it was a most extraordinary thing that complaints had not been made and the bridge altered. Mr Wright said efforts had been made to remove the bridge, but without success. Mr Prior thought that if two gates were placed at each side of the fencing and secured at night, there would be no danger of persons going into the river. The coroner then summed up, and the jury, after a brief consultation, returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned", and recommended that the wharf and bridge be immediately altered. [We trust the recommendation of the jury will at once be attended to, as the bridge and approaches are unquestionably in a very dangerous state. We think too that lamps ought to be placed adjacent to the bridge].

## **94     March 11 1852**

### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LENT ASSIZES**

**HIGHWAY ROBBERY AT CLARBOROUGH** **Thomas Robinson**, boatman aged 22, and Thomas Short, whitesmith aged 22, for having, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 1851, feloniously assaulted William Sanderson at the parish of Clarborough, putting him in bodily fear and stealing from his person two half crowns, four shillings and four sixpences in silver coin, his property. Mr Barker conducted the prosecution, and Mr O'Brien defended Short. The prosecutor deposed that on the day mentioned in the indictment he left Retford to go home, and while passing the church, the two prisoners came up with him, and went forward the same way. Witness said it was a fine night, but the only answer he got to this was a knock down blow. Short sent his knee into witness's back, and held him while he was down by the shoulder and the coat collar. They searched him, and took from 10s to 12s from his pocket. He was sure he had the money in his pocket when he left Retford. The prosecutor then went for Massey, the constable, who proceeded in search of the prisoners. They found the two worthies while they were being turned out of the New Sun public house, where they had been kicking up a row with a girl. It was half past seven o'clock at night when he left for home. The road where the robbery took place was very lonely. The prosecutor said he was much frightened when he was attacked. He (prosecutor) cried out to the assailants, "For God's sake, don't meddle with me. Take what I have, but don't hurt me". He had known Robinson well for some time. It was a beautiful light evening, and he could see his assailants quite distinctly. Elizabeth Nix, wife of Adam Nix, landlord of the New Sun, stated that the prisoners were not above a quarter of an hour in the house. The policeman Massey, on the other hand, deposed that Short said to him, when he was

apprehended, that he had been in the public house for an hour. Brown, the other police-constable present at the apprehension, stated that there were found upon the prisoner a half sovereign in gold, some silver and a ring. Mr O'Brien, on behalf of his client, contended that it was a case of mistaken identity, and argued this chiefly from the fact that the prosecutor was clearly a very timid man and that, under the circumstances, he was just the sort of individual to lose his self possession, and afterwards mistake the men by whom he had been attacked. Robinson addressed the jury on his own behalf, stating that he had newly come from Lincoln ; that he had accidentally fallen in with his companion in trouble, Short, and that without being in the least accessory to the crime, he had been apprehended on the charge of highway robbery. The Lord Chief Justice summed up, and the jury found a verdict of guilty. It appeared that Short had been previously convicted of theft at the Lincolnshire Sessions, and Robinson had been convicted of felony and once of an offence against the game laws, and had the fortune to be acquitted from another charge of felony. The prisoners were sentenced each to two months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

**95 April 8 1852**

**MARRIAGES** At Worksop on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant, by the Rev James Appleton, **Mr James Beeston**, boatman, to Miss Julia Wilson, both of Worksop.

**96 April 8 1852**

**POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM**

**FOUND DESTITUTE** **Charles Walker**, aged 7, living in Beeston Meadows, was found destitute in the premises of the Derby Arms, Long Row, at twelve o'clock last night by Police-constable Colton. The lad is the son of a boatman living at Beeston, and that being a great deal from home, the lad had strayed to Nottingham. He was ordered to be taken to the Union until he was owned by his father.

**97 April 15 1852**

**MURDER OF TWO CHILDREN AND SUICIDE OF THE FATHER** On Friday a most painful excitement prevailed at Putney and its surrounding neighbourhood, in consequence of the discovery of two boys, locked in each other's arms, and close to their bodies a man, about forty years of age, in a deep piece of water near the High Bridge, and abutting on the late Vice Chancellor's seat. The awful discovery was made about half past eleven o'clock in the day by two bargemen named **Hathway** and **Matthews**. The tide has influx into this small pond ; and the water, at high tide, is not less than ten or twelve feet deep. The bodies, when taken out, proved to be two fine grown youths – the eldest about eleven years of age, and the youngest about seven years. The man alluded to, who proves to be the father, was found with his legs tied with willow withs, as also his arms, he being close to his sons, who had also been tied together with two looped strings. They were very decently dressed, and evidently in excellent health at the time they were mercilessly hurried into eternity. The man was also well dressed as a mechanic, but had not money upon him. The bodies were got out of the water by two watermen named **Peters** and **Alexander**, and the former directly identified the man and two boys as having seen them walking along the towing-path between seven and eight o'clock on Thursday evening. He first saw the two children, the elder carrying the youngest. The elder boy said he was following his father, who was on before him. He afterwards met the father, who was walking with his arms down, and appeared very dejected. It further appeared that the man had been trying on the previous night to obtain beds for himself and children, but whether he succeeded is not at present known. Late on Sunday afternoon a woman, very decently dressed, called at the Chelsea station, and from information she gave, there was no doubt he was her husband, and she proved that he was a basket maker living at Barking in Essex, and employed several men ; that the two boys were by a previous marriage ; and she produced a letter which she had received from him, in which he said that when she received it that he would be no more, and his boys would go with him, and he only wished he had the girl with him ; he concluded his letter by stating that his wife's temper was the sole cause. At an inquest held on Tuesday, the

jury returned the following verdict : “That the two boys, Nathaniel Joseph Spankhurst and William Spankhurst, were wilfully murdered by their father, Nathaniel John Spankhurst, who afterwards committed suicide by drowning while in a fit of temporary insanity”.

### **98 April 15 1852**

**RETFORD EASTER SESSIONS** **William Snell**, aged 30, boatman, was charged with stealing one sovereign and one half sovereign at West Stockwith, the property of Richard Sylvester. Mr Barker for the prosecution. Richard Sylvester said : I am a sailor ; on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January last I went to West Stockwith in this county. Went to the White Swan, where I intended to sleep, the prisoner occupying the same bedroom. Went to bed about 10 o'clock ; had money with me, £1 10s in gold, and some silver in my trousers pocket. About a quarter of an hour afterwards the prisoner came into the room. I heard some money rattle, which gave me suspicion that all was not right, as I heard the prisoner say downstairs that he had no money. I got up and went downstairs for a light. On returning, I found the £1 10s was missing. I called to the landlord, and told him I had been robbed. The landlord came upstairs, and we tried to wake the prisoner, who appeared to be as though he was dead. After some trouble we succeeded in wakening him, and pulled him on to the floor. I searched his waistcoat and the landlord his trousers. Saw the landlord pick a sovereign and a half up. Then sent for the police. Mr James Newton said : I am a publican residing at Stockwith. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January the prosecutor and the prisoner came to my house, the White Swan, and engaged beds. Prosecutor went to bed about 10 o'clock, the prisoner about a quarter of an hour after. Heard a cry from Sylvester, who said, “This b---- has robbed me”. On going upstairs, I said, “Snell, what have you been doing? Give him his money and go about your business, like a villain as you are”. Prisoner said he had not got it, and desired me to search his trousers. I found nothing in them ; afterwards saw a sovereign and a half tumble out of his hand. Isaac Fincher deposed : I am a police-constable at West Stockwith, went to Newton's house about 11 o'clock at night on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January ; went upstairs and saw the landlord, who told me the prisoner had been robbing another man. I took him into custody, and he said, “Well, it is done now, and cannot be undone”. A verdict of Guilty was returned, and the prisoner, who has been frequently convicted, was sentenced to ten years' transportation. Considerable commotion was excited in the court on the sentence being given.

### **99 April 15 1852**

**LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE** On Monday last, Charles Fisher, tailor, and **John Woodville**, boatman, were charged, the former with assaulting Police-constable Hickinbottom, and the latter with resisting him whilst in the execution of his duty. It appears that the defendant Fisher had been maltreating one of the Loughborough postmen named Hill on the Nottingham Road on Saturday night ; and that Hickinbottom was sent for to take him into custody. On his arrival, the defendant Fisher attacked him in a violent manner, in consequence of which he charged Woodville to assist him, but the latter refused to do so. They were both ultimately taken into custody. As the case required two magistrates, the defendants were remanded until today (Thursday).

### **100 April 22 1852**

#### **LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS**

**ASSAULT** Charles Fisher, tailor, Loughborough, was charged with assaulting Thomas Hill, one of the Loughborough postmen. The complainant said, as he was proceeding through North Street with his letters on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, he was stopped by the defendant who inquired how his son “Jack” was. Complainant said he was “very well”, whereupon the defendant began to make use of some very abusive language, and threatened to knock his (complainant's son's) head off. Complainant said, “That won't do, you mustn't do that”, but the defendant said he would, and threatened to knock his (complainant's) head off too. The complainant said, “You must recollect that I am on her Majesty's service and you must not meddle with me”. The defendant, however, attacked him, struck him twice on the head and knocked his hat off. He had not provoked the defendant to commit the

assault. The magistrates considered that it was a most unprovoked assault, and ordered the defendant to pay a fine of 40s and costs, and in default to be imprisoned two months in the County Gaol. Police-constable Hickinbottom charged the same person with assaulting him on the above named day while in the execution of his duty. Mr Giles appeared for the defendant. The complainant stated that he was sent for by Hill, the postman, to take Fisher into custody. On arriving in North Street, he apprehended the defendant, who was very drunk and disorderly. Several boatmen, who were a short distance off, went up and told the defendant to lie down, which he did, and at the same time endeavoured to kick him. He afterwards did kick him, and tore his coat, which was nearly new. By Mr Giles : The defendant was not talking quietly when he, complainant, apprehended him, but was very disorderly. He did not see him commit the assault upon Hill, the postman. Mr Giles contended that as the complainant was not present when the assault upon Hill was alleged to have been committed, he was not justified in taking him into custody. Mr Acworth thought the complainant was perfectly justified in apprehending him. Mr Giles submitted that he was not, and contended that the defendant was justified in resisting the complainant as he had done. Mr Sergeant Moore intimated that this was not the first assault which the defendant had committed on the police. Fined 40s and costs, and in default to be imprisoned one month. **John Wogdale**, boatman, was charged with aiding Fisher, the defendant in the above case, to effect his escape. Mr Giles appeared for the defendant. The case was adjourned for a week.

### **101 April 29 1852**

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS **John Wogdale**, a boatman who had been remanded on a charge of attempting to rescue a person named Fisher from Police-constable Hickinbottom on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, was brought up again this morning. Mr Giles appeared for the defendant. The magistrates inquired if the complainant wished to add anything to what he had stated at his first examination. PC Hickinbottom, the complainant, said he did not, but he had witnesses who would prove the truth of what he had stated. Mrs Mary Fewkes was then called and examined. On the 10<sup>th</sup> inst she went to fetch Hickinbottom, to take Fisher, who was drunk and disorderly, into custody. She stood and watched them a short time, and afterwards followed them. She saw Fisher on the ground. Wogdale, the defendant, was near him, and she heard him say, "Lie still, Charley, and don't be taken". There was a crowd of persons, and several of them told Fisher to lie still. She saw Wogdale take hold of Fisher, but she did not know for what purpose. By Mr Giles : She never heard Hickinbottom charge the defendant to assist him, but she heard the defendant say, "If you cannot take the man yourself, why do you not charge someone to assist you?", upon which Hickinbottom said, "I don't want your assistance". Police-constable Annishaw stated that he went to assist Hickinbottom to take Fisher into custody on the 10<sup>th</sup> instant. When in Baxter Gate near Sparrow Hill, he saw Fisher and Hickinbottom rising from the ground. Hickinbottom's coat was torn, and Wogdale had hold of Fisher's wrist. Seeing Wogdale push Fisher in an opposite direction to the police, he, witness, pushed him away and he fell. The defendant was drunk at the time. By Mr Giles : He did not strike the defendant, but pushed him. Wogdale did not say, "What's this for? I am charged to assist". He did not say to Wogdale, "I am sorry I have done so, I did not know you were assisting him". Mr Giles then called Mrs Elizabeth Cartwright, Nottingham Road, on behalf of the defendant. She stated that she heard Wogdale say to Hickinbottom, when he was taking Fisher into custody, "Don't kill the man, you had better charge someone to assist you". Hickinbottom then charged the defendant to assist him, which he willingly did. She believed Wogdale was sober at the time. She heard him afterwards say to Fisher, "You know you have to go, and you might as well go quietly". Elizabeth Lowes stated that she was present when Hickinbottom was taking Fisher into custody. Wogdale did not encourage him to kick. He was charged to assist Hickinbottom, and he did so. She believed he had had a little drink, but he was not drunk. Mr Joseph Bailey, clerk to Messrs Cradock and Woolley, Sparrow Hill, said that he saw Hickinbottom near Baxter Gate on the day in question. He saw a man assisting him to take Fisher into custody. He knew Wogdale, but he did not see his face. He believed, however, that the defendant was the man. Other witnesses were examined in corroboration of the above evidence, after which the defendant was discharged.

## 102 May 6 1852

CHILD MURDER AT LENTON The inquiry into the death of the infant son of Emma Lewis was today resumed at the house of Mr Joseph Hull, the sign of the Travellers' Rest, Lenton.

Mr Coroner Swann arrived shortly after two o'clock, and having called over the names of the jury, proceeded to state that the young woman (Emma Lewis) was then in custody, and under the care of Mr Higginbottom, surgeon, who thought that if she were brought there in her present state of excitement, it would be injurious to her health. He therefore thought it advisable, rather than that she should be exposed to a risk of that nature, that she should remain in custody where she was. He would like their opinion on that subject.

### THE JURY

George Stanton	John Twigg
Thomas Shepherd	Peter Hampson
William Hickling	Charles Lay
Reuben Widdowson	George Hallam
George Mellors	John Milward
John Pounder	John Vessey

The jury then expressed themselves of the same opinion, on condition that the young woman was safe, otherwise they considered it necessary that she should be brought before them ; and in answer to an enquiry made by them,

The Coroner stated that she was in the custody of Syson, the parish constable.

The jury being satisfied that her presence would endanger her life, and that she was in safe custody, **John Mather**, boatman, Eaton's Yard, Radford, was called as the first witness. He stated that on Tuesday night about five o'clock, when he had been down the canal in a boat, he saw a woman go from the horse road under the long bridge on Derby Road. He thought she had a light coloured shawl on, with a dark border, and a light gown. She came out on the other side of the bridge, and could not have been under it above a minute. During the time she was under, nor at any time, he could not see her face, as he was following her, and the nearest he approached her was six or seven yards. He did not notice anything particular in her conduct. She stood with her face towards the canal, looking into the water. She had nothing in her hands, and he saw nothing in the water. He missed her very suddenly, and turned round, but saw no more of her. He could not swear to her if he were to see her again. William Bingham spoke to him, and asked him if she was not his wife, and he replied it was not.

Louisa, wife of John Harper of Isabella Street, Nottingham, lace maker, being sworn, said : I know Emma Lewis ; she came to lodge at our house about two months ago from the time she left me, which will be a week tomorrow. She was far advanced in the family way, and came to lie in at our house. Mrs Hodgkinson engaged her lodgings, and came with her to my house. She was very ill on Friday night the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, and at a quarter to four o'clock the next morning, she was delivered of a male child. She was attended during her confinement by Mr Higginbottom, but at the time of her delivery she was attended by Dr Sloane, Mr Higginbottom being otherwise engaged. The child was named by the Rev W J Butler's curate, Thomas Clarke Lewis, at the rectory of St Nicholas's, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. It was thought advisable by Mr Higginbottom to have the child removed from its mother, on account of its being in danger of its life. She tried to make away with it several times. The first time was on the fifth day after its birth. She got up when we were not in the room and dressed herself, and bundled the child up as if it were a bundle of clothes, and wanted to go away with it, but she was prevented. The second attempt was a week after. I heard the child cry, and went to see what was the matter. I found the child in bed with its mother, who said it only wanted the breast, and as she was going to give it some, I went away. I did not look at the child, as it seemed as if it were asleep. It was then about five o'clock in the morning. In about an hour afterwards I went up, as was customary, to fetch the child to wash it. Its neck was bleeding, and there were marks on its throat, and it seemed so oppressed that it could scarcely breathe. The child

was convulsed. We never left her alone long together. Several times after the instances I have named she used the child very cruelly, and would have killed it if an opportunity had offered itself. We therefore kept a strict watch on her actions, and it was the above facts which induced Mr Higginbottom to have the child removed from her. On Monday I sent for Mrs Beck of Sandiacre. She came over, and it was agreed that she should take the child to nurse at 3s 6d a week, and do her best for it, and bring it over in a month for us to look at it. There were present at the time of the agreement myself, Mrs Beck, Emma Lewis, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Hodgkinson. I wanted to warn the nurse not to let Miss Lewis have the child, but I was prevented by Mrs Hodgkinson. Mrs Beck took the child home the same evening. Miss Lewis slept at our house that night, and the next morning she rose as usual and had her breakfast. She appeared very wild, and after breakfast she said she was going to her sister's for the day. I wished her to stay at home for two or three days to have something done to her milk, but she said she must go to see her sister. When she left our house, she had on a dark green shaded alpaca dress with two flounces, and a shawl half white and half coloured, with a broad border ; a dark blue bonnet with a blue veil. Before she left the house, she went upstairs for some money. I never thought she was of sound mind. She received letters from the father of the child, and after reading them she became much excited. She used to say he would not marry her, and she would not face the world any more, and then cried. She told me he was a young gentleman who travelled for his own uncle in London. She did not say what business he travelled in. On Tuesday night I saw her ; she told me she wished she had brought the child back again to our house. She said, "Oh, I have lost my child, my child is gone ; I put it close to the water, and I believe it went in ; I turned round, and I fancy I saw it float on the water". She was so much excited that we did not take any notice of her. She told me she went a long way ; she did not mention the place, and I did not ask her any questions. I knew no more until last Thursday, when I came here and saw the child. Emma Lewis is its mother ; I know it by its features as well as by its dress. Miss Lewis has attempted to destroy herself many times. She was very troublesome. I was all day on Saturday looking for her. She said she had walked round the water. She made several attempts to drown herself before her confinement. All her family knew she was considered a lunatic. She used often to say she could not face the world any more.

At this stage of the evidence Mrs Harper reprehended strongly the conduct of the relations and those who had or professed to have the care of the unfortunate mother. She considered she had been most cruelly treated ; that she had not had sufficient means to be comfortable during her confinement, and that the child had not been supplied with such requisites as were necessary for its comfort. [This statement has subsequently been confuted by the parties reflected upon].

Mr Tomlinson then rose on behalf of the trustees, and stated that it was only about eight weeks before Miss Lewis was placed under Mrs Harper's care that the trustees were aware of her being in the family way, and that at that time Mr Lewis went to acquaint them of the fact, and it was then agreed upon that a certain sum of money should be advanced for the purpose of providing clothing for the child and every requisite for the mother during her confinement, afterwards, he believed, for seven or eight weeks, or until such time as she was sufficiently recovered to find means to provide for herself and her child. It was also agreed that she should have proper medical attendance. I told Mr Lewis, as solicitor for the trustees, that she should have every requisite provided, so that no member of the family or those persons responsible for her should have any charge made against them for neglect. It was only on Wednesday morning week they knew she had been confined. On that day, Mr Lewis went up to their house to have some conversation with them. He then told them that Miss Lewis had destroyed the child. He (Mr Tomlinson) could say that from the time Mr Lewis went to the trustees to Wednesday week, they had received no intimation that she had been confined. To show that she had not been neglected, he would state that £5 was given to her a very short time before her confinement, and during her confinement 10s a week ; the doctor's bill was to be paid ; she received a certain sum of money from the father of the child, and he had agreed to pay her half a crown a week ; the woman at Sandiacre was to receive 3s 6d a week ; and when she had recovered it was to be a matter of consideration what was then to be done.

Hannah, wife of Henry Beck of Sandiacre, Derbyshire, labourer, was next sworn. She said : On

Monday I was sent for to Mrs Harper's. I was engaged to take the child to nurse, and to do the best I could for it, and I was to bring it over in a month to let them see how it was. I was to be paid 3s 6d a week. I took the child with me to Sandiacre that night, at six o'clock. Nothing was said to me about the state of the mother's mind. I had no idea that she was of unsound mind, because I saw nothing peculiar in her conduct. The next day she came to my house about one o'clock ; she said she had received a letter from the child's father, in which he stated he was coming over that night, and wanted to see it. She said she should bring it back by the same train the next day as she had then come by. She stayed at our house till a quarter past four, and had her tea with me. I dressed the child, and put on it a dark worsted shawl and a hood. I was going to put another shawl on it, but Miss Lewis said she would put it under her shawl, and it would be warm. It never once struck me, by the conversation she had with me, and her conduct altogether, that she was not right in her mind. Before leaving my house, she said, "Good night, Mrs Beck ; you must meet me at the train tomorrow at half past twelve". The next night Mr Randall and someone else came over and told me what had happened. I came to this public house on Friday, and saw a child lying dead. It is the same that I parted with on Tuesday afternoon. I know it by its features and dress. I have seen Miss Lewis this afternoon, and am quite sure she is the same person to whom I delivered the child.

Marshall Hall Higginbottom of Nottingham, surgeon, said : I was called upon to attend Miss Lewis on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. She was then near her confinement. Dr Sloane attended her at the time of her delivery, as I was at that time engaged with a patient. I saw her on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, and most days for a week after. During my attendance on her, I was much struck with her imbecile state of mind. When I asked her a question, she would sometimes answer two or three words correctly, and then appear quite lost and could not finish her answer. She frequently gave me indirect answers. I think about ten days after her confinement the nurse sent for me, and told me she had made an attempt to injure the child. When I saw it, it was rather suffocated, but rallying, and there were marks of violence about the neck. I told the nurse to watch her very carefully, and not to leave her alone. I called on Mr Randall and told him that she was in such a state of mind that it was necessary to have the child removed from her, and that if she were not carefully watched, she would either be doing harm to herself or the child. He said he would see her friends, but at my next visit a day or two afterwards, I found nothing had been done. Mr Randall called on me on Tuesday evening last, and said she (Miss Lewis) had destroyed the child. I never knew it was at Sandiacre. On Friday evening I made a *post mortem* examination on the body of the child. Its external appearance seemed as though it had been some hours in water. There is a considerable quantity of watery mucus about the windpipe and tubes of the lungs. The right side of the heart was filled with fluid blood ; but the left side was nearly empty. There was a good deal of sago in the stomach, as if it had previously had a good meal. In every other respect the child was quite healthy. I have no doubt the child was living when it was put in the water. There was very little water in the body ; and no external marks. There was a considerable depression in front of the head. I have no doubt it is the child of Emma Lewis.

The Coroner then proceeded to sum up the evidence, which he said was exceedingly clear. He stated the facts to be these :- The young woman, Emma Lewis, was delivered of a male child, and was in correspondence with the father who wrote her answers refusing to marry her, and alleging as his reason that he was not in a position to do so. That circumstance seemed to operate very strongly on her mind. After several attempts to destroy it, it was removed from her, and placed under the care of Mrs Beck of Sandiacre, to whom the mother went by train the next day and obtained it, under the pretence that she had received a letter from its father in which he stated his intention of coming over that night, and wanted to see it. It appeared that she proceeded as far as Lenton Bridge, and there placed it in the water, and then went to her uncle's, Mr Randall's, house. He (the Coroner) had no doubt therefore that she must have gone straight to Mr Randall's after having done the act. On arriving at Mr Randall's house she was deeply depressed, and upon her uncle making inquiry as to what troubled her so much, she voluntarily told him she had put the child into the water and had there left it. With these facts stated by herself, in addition to her having drowned the child about five o'clock, and having reached her uncle's house, a distance of between three and four

miles, at about six, confirmed by the finding of the body in the place, or very near it, where she herself had said she placed it, and the identification of the child by Mrs Harper and Mrs Beck, of which they did not appear to have the slightest doubt, it was for them (the jury) to say whether or not she had not placed the child in the water with the wilful intention to take away its life, which amounted to the crime of wilful murder. He would not trouble them with the state of the mother's mind, because that was not the point which they were met to consider, but merely a very good one to be set up by way of her defence when she went to take her trial before the judge at the assizes. Supposing, then, if they made out a case of insanity, she would be acquitted on that ground of the offence, and ordered to be kept securely during the remaining part of her life. The only question for them to consider, however, was whether she had wilfully destroyed the life of the child. If they were satisfied on that point, it would be their duty to return a verdict of wilful murder ; if, however, it was their opinion that she had laid the child on the bank with no intention to drown it, and that it had rolled down into the water, then their verdict must be "Found drowned, but how it came there no satisfactory evidence appears to prove". But from the evidence which they had heard, he did not see how they could arrive at that conclusion, because all the facts had been so clearly proved, and the act of drowning had been brought home to her by her own voluntary confession. The jury immediately expressed their unanimity of opinion in accordance with the remarks from the Coroner, and a verdict of "Wilful murder" having been returned, the prisoner was committed for trial at the next assizes.

### **103 May 13 1852**

#### **RETFORD**

**TOWN HALL, EAST RETFORD** George Wyles, a publican residing at Ascham, was charged by **John Wolfinden** with committing violent assaults on him at Ascham on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant. The complainant stated that his wife had left him, and had been living with the accused for some time ; that on Wednesday he came from Doncaster for the purpose of taking her back with him ; that on Thursday morning he went to the house of the accused and asked his wife to come with him. She said she would not. The accused came into the house, struck him several times, and knocked him down. When he got up, he left the house followed by the accused, who ill used him in the street, striking him several times. Went to Mr Dawkins of Little Markham, who recommended him to come to Retford and take out a summons against Wyles, but if the offence could be made up without having recourse to the law, it would be far preferable. The complainant stated further that he went back to Ascham, intending to sleep at the public house kept by the accused, who as soon as he arrived commenced another attack on him in which he bit a piece out of his lip and used him in a very shameful manner. The accused, in his defence, stated that the complainant had commenced the quarrel. When he came to his house, he said that his wife might go with him if she wished ; if not, he would give him a sovereign and he could go about his business. Mr Fearnley enquired if the wife was present. On her appearance she stated that she had left her husband, who was a boatman, because he carried a pistol in his pocket and threatened, if she went on board his vessel, to shoot her. The accused was fined £2, together with 13s expenses, which was paid immediately. Mr Fearnley commented in strong terms upon the unblushing effrontery with which the woman confessed that she was living in open adultery with another man, and characterised the whole proceedings on the part of the accused and his adopted wife to be most disgraceful.

### **104 May 13 1852**

**RETFORD BOROUGH POLICE, MAY 10** **Charles Parr**, a boatman of West Stockwith, was charged by Superintendent Kinder with being drunk and disorderly on Sunday night in the borough. Police-constable Brown stated that about half past four on the previous afternoon the accused was in the Market Place, insulting passers by and conducting himself in a most unbecoming manner. On recommending him to go home, he made use of very strong language and set him (Brown) completely at defiance. Fined 5s and expenses, together amounting to 12s 2d.

**105 May 13 1852**

**FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE CROMFORD CANAL** On Thursday last, a lad of the name of **Key**, of Heage, who was employed on the canal, and as the boat he was in was about emerging from the tunnel on the Cromford Canal at the Codnor Park End, he proceeded to fix the rope on the towing post. Whilst so doing, his head was jammed between the post and one of the cross pieces that support the roof of the tunnel, and so badly crushed that he died very shortly after. An inquest was held on the above on Saturday last at the house of Mr Fletcher, the Old Dog Inn, Pentridge, before Mr Whiston, coroner, and a very respectable jury, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

**106 June 3 1852**

**WORKSOP**

**ACCIDENTAL DEATH BY DROWNING AT WORKSOP** On the 26<sup>th</sup> ult, an inquest was held by P R Faulkner Esq at Worksop, over the body of a child about eight years of age named William Hunt. **Jane**, the wife of **Henry Richardson** of Worksop, lock-keeper, stated that about a quarter to six on Thursday evening she saw the deceased getting off a stone wall near the towing-path by the side of the Chesterfield Canal. I spoke to him. I saw no more of him. The father came home about a quarter to eleven o'clock. I made inquiry about the child, and I told him (the father) that I had seen deceased about a quarter past seven o'clock. Francis Hunt of Worksop, rabbit catcher, said : The child left our house about seven o'clock on Monday night. I live about 300 yards from the water side. My brother (the child's father) came to me about ten o'clock, and said he had lost him. I searched for him, and found the body at the bottom of the lock gate. He was quite dead. The lock was on the boy's way towards his home from my house. Verdict : "Accidentally drowned".

**107 June 3 1852**

**TOWN HALL, RETFORD, MAY 29** Mr Robert Moulton, landlord of the Bridge Inn at Stockwith, was charged with keeping his house open at improper hours, whereby he had incurred the penalty of £5. The accused pleaded guilty, and stated that he was accustomed to open his house for the accommodation of the boatmen on the Chesterfield Canal, who frequently stopped at his house at all hours of the night. Police-constable Fincher stated that on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult, the accused had his house open at one o'clock in the morning, and had three persons in it who had been supplied with liquors. They were not travellers, but some of the biggest blackguards in the village. Witness had repeatedly cautioned the defendant, and as the magistrates were obliged to convict, he was fined in the mitigated penalty of £2 with 13s costs.

**108 June 24 1852**

**ANOTHER STURGEON CAUGHT AT NEWARK** On Thursday last as some boatmen were walking along the banks of the Trent Basin, between the flood gates and the top lock they observed a remarkable large fish floundering about. They immediately closed the flood gates ; the water was let through the lock by the shuttle at a slow rate, and the fish, which proved to be a sturgeon, was landed. It weighed about 13 stone, and was conveyed to Southwell, where it was easily disposed of.

**109 July 1 1852**

**SHOCKING MURDER NEAR SAWLEY** One of the most appalling and brutal murders which it has ever been our lot to record was perpetrated on Monday in the neighbourhood of Sawley, a small village on the Midland Railway, about two miles from Eaton Junction on the Derby side. The unfortunate victim of this dreadful crime was a married woman named Sarah Walters, the wife of John Walters, an agricultural labourer, and the person charged with its commission is one of those homeless scamps who are constantly prowling about country villages and retired dwellings in search of plunder. So far as yet ascertained, the foul deed was perpetrated without provocation or motive of any kind, and seems to have been the act of a madman rather than that of a cool, atrocious, deliberate murderer. Indeed the conduct of the accused during the commission of the fearful crime laid to his charge, and since he had been in custody, can only be accounted for on the

supposition that he is insane, and for the honour of human nature we do earnestly hope he may be found to be in such a state of mental imbecility as will warrant the conclusion that he should not be considered responsible for his actions.

The scene of the terrible catastrophe which it is now our painful duty to describe to our readers was a small farmstead, situate about a mile and a half from Sawley on the Draycott Road, and generally known by the name of Wilne Barns. It occupies a very lonely and secluded position at the end of Wilne Lane, a narrow road overshadowed by trees on either side, and leading to the factory of Messrs Soresby which, though a considerable distance off, is the house nearest to that which has gained for itself so unhappy a notoriety. The buildings stand a few yards from the side of the lane, which is bounded by a stone wall and gate, and form three sides of a square, enclosing a moderately sized courtyard. Two of the ranges, if we may so term a few low hut like erections, consist of cart sheds, hay lofts, and other necessary adjuncts of a farm steading. The apartments which were occupied by the deceased and her husband are at the extreme end of the third range, and are cut off from the court by a stone fence, entrance being afforded through a small wicket gate. A kitchen garden extends from the house to the road.

The farm itself is tenanted by Mr Richard Thompson of Draycott, who employed Walters and his wife to reside on it and take charge of it for him. They are represented to have been a decent elderly couple, industrious and peaceable, living quietly by themselves, and respected by all who knew them. Mrs Walters was about 56 years of age ; her husband is a few years older. They never had any children, but resided quite alone, their nearest neighbours being almost a mile distant. It is about four years since they first took up their abode at Wilne Barns.

On visiting Sawley yesterday for the purpose of attending the inquest, which is reported below, we found the village in a state of considerable excitement. The Odd Fellows Arms, where the supposed murderer was confined pending the conclusion of the inquest, was besieged by a mob of villagers, and a small knot of persons was standing at the door of almost every cottage, eagerly discussing the revolting details of the distressing event which had occurred. The Draycott Road was thronged by people either going to or returning from the place where the crime had been committed. A large crowd filled the courtyard. An intense desire was manifested to see the body of the murdered woman, which lay on trestles in the kitchen, and presented a really frightful spectacle. The head and face were one mass of wounds, each sufficient to have caused death. The lower and upper jaws were both fractured ; the nose was broken across and almost severed from the face ; three large and deep gashes covered the temple ; and the head was cut and bruised in several places. No marks of violence were observable on the body, with the exception of a slight wound on each arm, neither of which was of consequence. Almost every article of furniture in the apartment was damaged or destroyed ; the window was smashed to pieces, frame and all ; and the floor was clotted over with blood and dirt.

From the fact that no human eye witnessed the perpetration of the murder except that of the accused himself, and that he refuses to state any of the circumstances connected with the commission of the savage deed, it is impossible to describe precisely the manner in which the ill fated woman was deprived of life. We subjoin all the particulars we have been able to collect.

After breakfast on Tuesday morning, Walters proceeded as usual to his labour in the fields, leaving his wife at home, and not intending to return until the middle of the day. He had not been long away when Mrs Walters resolved to go to Draycott to make some purchases. Accordingly she prepared for the journey, and before setting out locked the door and put the key in her pocket. When nearly half way to Draycott, she called at the house of an acquaintance, where she stayed for a few minutes only, but in the course of conversation she mentioned that she had seen an ugly looking man on the road near her own house. She said she was afraid of him, and was glad when she got out of his sight. Having promised to call as she returned from Draycott, if she came that way, she left the house and was never again seen alive by its inmates. No further trace of her has been discovered after this time until her body was found lying in the yard at Wilne Barns ; but she must have reached Draycott, made her purchases there, and returned by a different road to her home, for the basket she carried with her was picked up a few steps from the door, and was found to

contain a variety of grocery and other articles.

In the public works at Wilne there are a number of girls employed from the village of Sawley, whose mothers and sisters are in the habit of meeting them half way between the two places with their dinners, each party after a while returning the way they came. It so happened on Tuesday a little after noon that a woman residing at Sawley met her daughter on the road exactly opposite the house occupied by the deceased and her husband. She observed the door was shut, and went up to the house to ascertain if anything were wrong. On passing through the gate she observed the prisoner in the yard, scattering some white substance over a heap of rubbish. Being frightened by his appearance, she ran away and gave the alarm. A number of men from Wilne speedily arrived on the spot, and found the body of Mrs Walters lying in the yard beneath a mass of stones, branches, chairs, sheets and broken furniture of every description. It was mangled in the way we have already described. Meanwhile the man charged with the murder had retreated to the house and barred himself in. After the lapse of a few minutes, however, he issued forth armed with a besom, and threatened to strike one of the men in the yard. He appeared to be bent on further mischief, and probably would have effected his escape had not a lad standing by struck him a rather severe blow above the left eye with a stone, which caused him to stagger against a wall, when the men rushed in upon him and pinned him to the ground. He was then taken to Sawley, and delivered over to the constable of the village.

Such are all the facts which have reached us relative to this direful affair ; the rest is mere conjecture, though highly probable. It is supposed that during the absence of Mrs Walters the prisoner entered the house by the window, and was discovered there by the poor woman on her return from Draycott. She is stated to have been bold and resolute, and possibly she may have asked him rather sharply what he was doing in her house. It is thought that he then felled her with a poker, for the key with which she must have opened the door is broken, and the door itself is spotted with blood. Becoming infuriated at the sight of the streaming gore, he appears to have repeated the blow about twenty times, mangling the body of the unfortunate woman even after she was dead, and then to have smashed everything within his reach. Having finished the work of destruction, he must have dragged the bleeding body into the yard, and attempted to conceal it in the manner described. The white substance which the woman saw him strew on the ground was subsequently ascertained to be salt, and we were told he was heard repeating to himself the words, "I have salted her, I have salted her". Indeed his conduct then and since has been that of a raving maniac, but whether his madness be real or feigned is a question which of course we cannot undertake to decide. The absence of all motive, however, for the perpetration of the heinous crime of murder goes far, we think, to prove his insanity ; and our opinion on this point is further confirmed by the fact that he remained by the side of his victim when he might have made his escape.

The wretched man was kept in the Odd Fellows Arms Inn the whole of Tuesday night. He steadily refused to give his name, or state where he came from. He is not known in the neighbourhood of Sawley. We believe he was seen lying about the hedges on Tuesday morning, but he had not been noticed before by anybody. A more miserable looking creature could hardly be imagined. He is about 5 feet 6 inches in height, thin and emaciated, and wears neither shoes, coat nor waistcoat. His only clothing is a ragged pair of trousers which do not descend lower than three or four inches below the knee, a dirty striped shirt, and a rough cap. Nobody would give two pence for all he has upon him. His head is covered with thick bushy hair, which falls in tangled locks over a low retreating forehead, and shades a pair of grey eyes glaring like those of a wild bull. Altogether his appearance is exceedingly repulsive, and yet his attenuated frame, worn to skin and bone, and indicating the endurance of much hardship and starvation, is apt to excite pity for the poor unfortunate wretch.

It will be seen below that the prisoner refused to give his name when asked to do so by the Coroner. We understand, however, that in course of conversation with some of the villagers yesterday – for all were permitted to see him – he said his name was Daniel Freeman, his age 34, and his place of birth Glaston, Rutlandshire. He added that his mother was dead, but his father was alive. He said he had never learned a trade.

THE INQUEST The jury were summoned to attend at the Odd Fellows Arms at half past ten yesterday forenoon, but they might as well have stayed at home, for the Coroner, Mr Whiston of Derby, did not arrive till half past three in the afternoon, in consequence of the mistake of a constable. After having been sworn, the jury, of which Mr John Smith was the foreman, proceeded to view the body of the deceased, which they found in the state already described. On their return, they assembled in a large room in the Odd Fellows Inn, where the prisoner was brought before them.

The Coroner, addressing the prisoner, said : What is your name?

Prisoner : I have no name, thank you, till you give me one.

The Coroner : You have though – what is it?

Prisoner : Caesar.

The Coroner : What is your Christian name?

Prisoner : I have no other name, sir.

The Coroner : Is it John Caesar?

Prisoner : No.

The Coroner : You are charged with wickedly and feloniously killing Sarah Walters yesterday forenoon. We are going to examine witnesses, and you must attend to what they say.

Prisoner : No, sir.

The examination of witnesses was then proceeded with.

John Haig : I live at Wilne, and an sexton of the church there. I knew Sarah Walters. Her husband's name is John. He is a labourer. The deceased was 58 years of age last Sunday. She was at my house yesterday at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as near as I can guess. She appeared to be quite well ; I never saw her better in my life. She left my house about a quarter past eleven for the purpose of going to Draycott for shop things. She said she had not time to stop then, but if she came back that way she would call again. She did not call as she returned from Draycott, and I did not see her again until about half past twelve, when I saw her body in the farmyard adjoining the house in which she lived. The body was lying under a shed, with a stone trough under her head, which was covered with a tea tray and a small cloak. The body was afterwards taken into the house. When I entered the yard, the prisoner was in custody. I had not seen him before. He was very violent.

The Coroner, addressing the prisoner : Do you want to ask the witness anything?

Prisoner : No. I won't ask him anything.

**Martha Kilburn** : I am married ; my husband's name is **Thomas Kilburn**. I live in the village of Sawley. My husband is a waterman. I was going to Wilne Mills yesterday forenoon with my daughter's dinner, and I sat down opposite the house where the woman was killed. I was on the road, but could see the door of the house. I waited for my daughter, and on her arrival she sat down and eat her dinner. I said to her, “The old woman (meaning the woman who lived in the house) has never looked out”. The door still remained shut. I remarked, “I will go and see if she is ill”. I went up to the gate and saw the prisoner in the yard. He was in the act of covering something up. He got something white and scattered it over the ground as if he were sowing wheat. He said twice over, “Flour, you ---”. I then gave the alarm. I went to another woman in the road, and we then proceeded in the direction of Wilne Mills. I returned shortly afterwards and found a great many people about the house. When I was there before, I did not see any person in the yard except the prisoner. I did not examine the window the first time, but did so on my return. On leaving the house there did not appear to be anything hanging on the outside, but on my return I found the lace frame part in and part out of the window, which was broken. I saw the body lying in the yard, but did not examine it minutely. I was much frightened and went away as soon as possible. The prisoner was being brought out of the yard when I visited the house the second time. I have no doubt he is the person whom I saw in the yard. I did not hear him make use of any expressions as to what he had done. He kept talking to himself when I first saw him, but I could make nothing of what he said. I was not more than twenty yards from him. He did not appear to be excited.

The Coroner asked the prisoner if he wished to put any questions to the witness.

The Prisoner : I never see nobody.

George Atkin : I am a blacksmith, and live at Wilne Mills. At ten minutes past one yesterday I received a communication which caused me to go to the house occupied by the husband of the deceased, which is situate in a lonely place about half a mile from Wilne Mills and a mile from Sawley. On getting to the yard, I saw the body of the deceased covered over with a sheet. I went up to the window which looks out over the yard, and which was broken, and saw the prisoner holding the door in the inside of the house so as to prevent anyone entering. There was no person beside the door but himself. I called to him and said, "How came you to murder this poor old woman?" He muttered something over, opened the door, and came out towards the gate with a besom raised in his hand as if he were going to strike me. I seized hold of a trestle, wrenched off a leg, and went to the gate. During this time a lad threw a stone at the prisoner, which struck him over the left eye, causing the wound which now appears there. He let the besom fall, and I immediately secured him. I got assistance and took the prisoner into the lane. He was almost covered with blood. I did not see any blood upon him before he was struck with the stone ; indeed I could not have seen it. The stone did not knock him down, but he staggered against the wall, and blood flowed copiously from the wound. After he was apprehended he put his head into a horse trough. He was dressed in a cap, shirt and pair of trousers, without shoes or stockings. I brought him to Sawley. On the way he told me he came from some town in Northamptonshire. He also told me his name, but I forget what it was.

Prisoner : Caesar.

Coroner : Was it Caesar?

Witness : No. While coming along the road, he twice endeavoured to escape, and cursed and swore very much. I asked him many times why he killed the old woman. He said he never saw the old woman, and knew nothing about her. I delivered him into the custody of Smedley, the constable.

On being asked by the Coroner whether he had anything to ask of the witness, the prisoner replied, "No, sir".

Thomas Heywood : I am a worker at Wilne Mills. I knew the deceased. Yesterday, between twelve and one o'clock in the forenoon, in consequence of information I received, I went to her husband's farm yard. I went up to the house and looked through the window, and saw the prisoner in the act of throwing things out of the window. I did not like to go into the house myself. I was the first in the yard. I examined it and saw what appeared to be a table leg heaped up. I went to it, took hold of it, and found it to be a woman's leg. I shook it, something fell off it, and seeing the knee bare I went away. The other parts of the body were covered over with pieces of cloth and other things. I distinguished the body to be that of Sarah Walters. I could not see her head ; it was covered with a horse trough. This was about ten minutes or a quarter after one. The deceased was dead when I saw her. I assisted Atkins in bringing the prisoner to Sawley. I did not hear him say what his name was. He told us where he came from, but I forget the name of the place. He used abusive language.

William Smedley : I am constable of Sawley. Yesterday between one and two o'clock, the prisoner was given into my custody by the witnesses Atkins and Heywood, charged with the murder of Sarah Walters. I asked him his name. He called himself Caesar, and said he had no other name. He refuses to give any other. I left him in charge of some assistants until I should go to the house of the deceased. On arriving there I found the body lying in the yard covered with a cloth. I took the cloth off and had the body carried into the house. I examined the house : it was full of rubbish and in a state of confusion, everything being destroyed. The window was broken, and there was a great deal of blood on the floor, which appeared to have been smeared over with dirt. As I was leaving the house, I received a poker from some person whose name I do not know ; it was covered at one end with fresh blood. The poker I now produce. I found in the house, on the floor, a pair of shears and a pair of scissors, which belonged to the deceased. I believe the poker was also the property of the deceased. I then came back to the prisoner. A person named George Smith in my presence asked him what made him kill the woman. He replied, "She hit me first, and I then hit her with the poker". I then asked the prisoner if he did hit her with the poker, and he said, "Yes, I did". I asked if he knocked her down, and he answered, "No". Afterwards he said, "I struck her again and

knocked her down". I inquired if he struck her again, and he said, "Yes, I struck her a third time, but no more". He was perfectly sensible, and understood everything that was said. I remained with him the greater part of the night. He made two attempts to get out of the window. I searched him, but found nothing upon him at all.

Michael Thomas Jones : I am a surgeon at Shardlow. Yesterday between two and three o'clock, I was at Wilne Mills, and on hearing of what had happened, I went to the house of the deceased. I found the body lying on a board in the house. It was covered with blood and dirt. I stripped, examined and washed it, assisted by two women. I found no marks of violence on the body except two small bruises, one on each arm. I then examined the face and head, which were much mutilated. There were six cut wounds on the face. The lower jaw was fractured in three or more places, part of the bone and teeth protruding on the right side. The upper jaw was also extensively fractured on the left side, and the teeth were knocked out. The bones forming the left orbit and left cheek were fractured. The nose was broken across and almost completely cut off. There was a very extensive cut over the left ear, extending towards the base of the skull, and under this cut there was a large fracture. There were eight wounds on the back of the head, some of them being three or four inches long ; indeed I seldom saw such a sight. More than twenty blows must have been given. Most of the cuts appeared to have been made by a sharp instrument. The blow upon the nose must have been a very severe one. The injuries received were quite sufficient to have caused death ; in fact some of them singly would have proved mortal. Part of the wounds might have been occasioned by a poker similar to that produced by the constable. It is impossible that any of the bruises or cuts could have been occasioned by the deceased herself. Great violence must have been used by some second person.

In answer to one of the jurymen, the witness stated that the trough found on the head of the deceased might have inflicted some of the injuries, but could not have occasioned the cuts and fractures.

The evidence being concluded, the coroner asked the prisoner if he had any statement to make, to which he replied in the negative.

The Coroner than addressed a few observations to the jury, telling them they had nothing to do with the question as to the prisoner's state of mind, their duty simply being to decide whether, according to the evidence, he had wilfully and feloniously murdered Sarah Walters. For his own part, he thought there could be no doubt in the matter.

Unanimous verdict : "Guilty of Wilful Murder".

The prisoner was accordingly committed for trial, and the witnesses were bound over to prosecute. He was taken to Derby by the seven o'clock train last evening. A large crowd of both sexes assembled at the station and hooted the prisoner. When the train moved off, a cheer of triumph was given.

### **110 July 8 1852**

RETFORD MIDSUMMER SESSIONS **Joseph Hindley**, 60, boatman, was charged with stealing a pair of hames and other articles at Grove, the property of Feargus William Park. Mr Barker for the prosecutor, the prisoner undefended. Verdict of Guilty, and the prisoner being an old offender, was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

**William Wells**, 29, boatman, and **Richard Searston**, 32, labourer, were indicted for stealing eight hundredweight of coal at Worksop, the property of Turner Ward, in May 1851. Verdict of guilty, and the prisoners were sentenced, Wells to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour, one week in each quarter solitary, and Searston to seven years' transportation.

### **111 July 15 1852**

BOY DROWNED IN THE TRENT Yesterday evening about half past five o'clock, as a little boy, seven years old, the son of Mr Aaron Taylor, joiner, Broad Marsh, Nottingham, was filling a bottle from the river Trent, on the landing at the Wilford Ferry Boat, he overbalanced himself and fell into

the water. The stream at this part of the river is very strong, consequently the lad was speedily carried about forty yards from the spot, a considerable distance of which he struggled vigorously. It was generally believed by the bystanders that had the boatman had the presence of mind to have thrown his boat pole into the water where the boy was, his life might have been preserved ; as it was, however, no assistance could be procured until too late, and although four persons plunged into the water after the youth, none of them could seize him, and it was not until life was extinct that his body was secured by persons who dragged the river.

### **112 July 15 1852**

**MAN DROWNED IN THE TRENT** On Saturday last, Mr Coroner Browne held an inquest at the Town Arms, Trent Bridge, Nottingham, on the body of Alfred Walters. On Friday evening the deceased and two more persons went to that part of the Trent between the second and third railings below the Wilford Ferry, where they bathed. Walters sprang into the water from a large stone at the river side, and after swimming as if to cross the river, about twenty or thirty yards he began to beat the water with his hands, and seemed as if he had got out of his depth, and shouted for help, and Thomas Hyson, bricklayer of New Radford, who was on the opposite side of the river, swam to him, but when he had reached him the deceased sank. Hyson dived after him about four times and brought him to the surface, and then carried him to the shore, where a number of persons who had assembled administered brandy, rubbed him, and used several other means to bring the unfortunate man round, but no signs of life remained, and the deceased was then taken to the Town Arms Inn. Verdict : “Accidentally drowned”.

### **113 September 2 1852**

**BINGHAM** On Thursday last, Allan Hutchings, gentleman, **Samuel Spurr**, boatman, and John Green, gamekeeper, all of East Bridgford, were charged with fishing in the river Trent, where the right belonged to Samuel Hole Esq and Captain Martin. Discharged on paying the expenses, and promising not to offend again.

### **114 September 23 1852**

**DEATH FROM INTOXICATION** On Friday last, Mr Coroner Browne held an inquest at the watch house on the body of a boatman named **Thomas Darby**, aged 20, who lived at Barrow-upon-Soar. From the evidence given before the coroner, it appears that a few days ago the deceased and several other boatmen left Mountsorrel with a boat loaded with granite. On Thursday night they went into the Red Lion public house, Red Lion Street, and commenced drinking ale. In a short time afterwards they were joined by another companion who, with them, proceeded to the Ragged Staff, Red Lion Square. Several of the party, but especially the deceased, were by that time very drunk. A pint of gin was called for, and about half that quantity was disposed of by the deceased in its neat state. He afterwards drank three more glasses of gin and water, and the remainder of the night drank at the rate of three glasses to one which was drunk by the rest of the company. About twelve o'clock the party, excepting the deceased, quitted the public house and wended their way to the Lord Byron in Red Lion Street. Meanwhile, the landlord of the Ragged Staff found the deceased lying in a totally helpless state in the taproom, and carried him out of the house and placed him on the doorstep, and in that position he shortly afterwards fell asleep. Police-constable Burton, who was on duty in the vicinity, found him, and went to inform his comrades of his condition. He was then taken to the Lord Byron public house, and died shortly after his arrival. A *post mortem* examination was made of his body by Mr Caunt, surgeon, and, from the general appearance of his stomach, he attributed his death to congestive apoplexy consequent on drinking intoxicating liquors and taking a large quantity of unmasticated food. Verdict accordingly.

### **115 October 28 1852**

**RETFORD MICHAELMAS SESSIONS** The following prisoner pleaded guilty :- **John Bucknall**, 26, boatman, a tramp, stealing at Worksop in July last one watch and other articles, the property of

William Booth, also two shirts and two pair of stockings, the property of Samuel Coupland. Four calendar months' hard labour, four weeks solitary.

**116 November 25 1852**

RETFORD

TOWN HALL NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> **Joseph Booth**, waterman residing at Stockwith, was charged with wilfully damaging a boat lying on the Chesterfield Canal in the parish of Hayton, the property of **Thomas Freeman**. Ordered to pay the damage, 15s, and costs, 8s 6d.

**117 December 16 1852**

SINKING OF A BARGE A distressing casualty occurred near the Stanley Dock, Liverpool, between twelve and one o'clock on Thursday morning, by which a bargeman, **William Horrocks**, and his son, a fine little fellow about nine years of age, both perished. Shortly after midnight, loud cries of "Help" were heard issuing from on board a barge lying in one of the locks between the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the Stanley Dock. Two flatmen, **Richard Thompson** and **Edward Enos**, whose attention was first arrested by the cries, ran to the lock, and found a barge in the act of sinking. A girl of 13, Rachael, the daughter of William Horrocks, was found shrieking piteously, and maintaining with great difficulty her footing on the submerged deck. When rescued, she was up to her neck in the water. The barge sunk immediately afterwards. Horrocks and his son were shut up in the little cabin, and so sudden was the disaster, that the probability is they were drowned ere time was afforded them to attempt escape. The lock was run dry as soon as possible, and the bodies of the father and son recovered. The former had not been in bed, but was sitting as though he had been asleep. The boy was in a kneeling posture on the floor of the cabin. The accident is supposed to have arisen from a leak which the barge sprang in consequence of her being laden too deeply ; and the nature of her cargo (stone) caused her to sink at once. The barge belonged to Mr James Webster, coal merchant, Vauxhall Road, Liverpool. Horrocks has left behind six children, his wife having very lately given birth to twins.

**118 December 30 1852**

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

CHARGE OF FELONY FROM THE CANAL **John Hall**, 46, boatman from Leicester, and **Samuel Hopewell**, 39, boatman from Stapleford, were charged by **Charles Thornton** with stealing two mooring chains, his property. It seems that the chains were lying in the boat of the prosecutor near the gas works, where also was the boat belonging to the prisoners. On missing the chains, the prosecutor suspected that the prisoners had got them, and gave information of the robbers to Inspector Raynor, who found them in the prisoners' stable. They were discharged on promising to appear again if called upon.

**119 December 30 1852**

UNFEELING CONDUCT On Sunday week, George Mullis, a collier, was out walking with his niece, Sarah Bailey, a girl about nine years of age, on the banks of the canal near Hardcastle Tunnel mouth. Having told the girl that she had a dirty face, she lingered a little behind, and it is supposed was in the act of washing her, when she fell into the canal. The uncle saw the child struggling in the water which, at that spot, is somewhere about four feet deep, but instead of plunging in to rescue the child from a watery grave, the cowardly fellow ran a distance of about 200 yards to get a boatman to do that which his feelings as a man ought to have done himself. The boatman at once obeyed the call and got the child out, but she only breathed once and expired.