

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GUARDIAN
1853 to 1859

1 January 13 1853

RETFORD SESSIONS **William Colston** and **George Ellis**, boatmen, were charged with having stolen 120 stones weight of potatoes at Misterton on the 9th of November last, the property of Mr G F Corringham. Mr Corringham proved that he had three piles of potatoes in a field near the canal at Misterton, some of which were riddled that the piles were covered in the usual manner, and that next morning between seven and nine o'clock he received information that the piles had been opened and some potatoes stolen. He gave information to Thoresby and told him to proceed towards Clayworth. He himself also went after him to Clayworth, and found some potatoes in prisoner Ellis's boat. Witness examined the potatoes and was quite satisfied they were his property. He saw some footsteps in the field which corresponded with the prisoner's boots. Charles Taylor, a labourer, confirmed the last witness as to the piles being broken into and potatoes stolen, also as to the description of the potatoes and the footsteps. C Hill was at work in an adjoining field, and saw about half past 10 o'clock on the 9th of November, a boat come up the canal, belonging to Ellis who, with Colston, were therein. The boat was moored in an adjoining field. J Thoresby proved tracing and finding the boat and potatoes. Colston, in his defence, said he had not been in the boat from 9 o'clock the previous day till the following day, when he was apprehended, that he was at home with his wife and child, who were both ill. Ellis was defended by Mr Barker. Both were found guilty. Ellis was ordered to be transported for seven years, and Colston to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

2 January 27 1853

FATAL MISADVENTURE AT MANCHESTER On Tuesday week, a bricklayer's labourer named Thomas Greenwood was charged at Manchester with killing **Michael Kerr**, a boatman, on Saturday night. The case was one to create deep concern amongst all who are acquainted with the brutal and degraded position of the class to which these men belong. For no better reason than that both being partly intoxicated, they could not pass in the street without accidentally elbowing each other, they came to blows, and went down upon the pavement. Kerr regained his feet first, when the other kicked him in the pit of his stomach, and the blow proved fatal almost immediately. The encounter between the two scarcely lasted a minute. The prisoner was not apprehended till Tuesday morning, when police-sergeant Campion took him in Brewery Street. He was committed for trial at the spring assizes at Liverpool.

3 March 3 1853

LITTLEBOROUGH

STEALING BARLEY On Wednesday week, George Hackett, a labourer in the employ of Mr William Black, farmer of the above village, was taken into custody on suspicion of robbing his employer. It appeared that a day or two previous Mr Black had found a sack which was not his own secreted amongst some chaff in his barn, and judging that it was there for some improper purpose, he set a watch on the place. On the day in question, a boatman of the name of **John Clay** was seen to come to Hackett whilst he was at work in the barn place and carry something away in the sack which had been found hidden there. Hackett assisted to place it on his back. Mr Black was apprised of what had taken place, and forwarded information to Police-constable Barker at Leverton, who proceeded to Littleborough and took Hackett into custody. Clay having got scent that all was not quite right, took the bag and its contents and threw it into the Trent near the ferry, and made his escape. The bag was got out of the river, and found to contain a portion of barley of the same description as Mr Black's. Another portion was found in Clay's stable, making altogether about 3 strikes. Hackett was taken before the magistrates at Retford and committed for trial at the next sessions. Clay, who was shortly after apprehended by the Lincoln police, was removed to Retford, and on Saturday was committed for trial at the sessions.

4 March 10 1853

DEATHS On the 4th inst, aged 35 years, **Ann**, wife of **Mr Richard Lawson**, boatman, Hart's Yard, Nottingham.

5 March 17 1853

RETFORD

TOWN HALL, MARCH 12 **William Unwin** was charged with refusing to assist the police when in the discharge of his duty when called on to do so. J A Barker, police officer, stated that on the 16th of February he was in pursuit of a man named **Clay** on a charge of felony, to the Trent side, Littleborough – he saw the defendant (who is a boatman) put Clay over the river in a boat, and requested him (defendant) to take him (witness) over also, but defendant hesitated and said he did not know he was obliged to do so, and therefore he would not. The Bench, on defendant paying the costs, £1 7s, allowed him to be discharged.

6 April 28 1853

WILFUL DAMAGE At the borough police court on Friday last, two young men of respectable appearance named **Charles Brown** and **William Conclent**, boatmen, were placed before the Bench on a charge of having, on Sunday the 17th instant, wilfully broken and otherwise injured various articles to the amount of 10s 11d, the property of Mr John Redfern of the Nag's Head Inn, Stoney Street. From the evidence adduced in support of the plaint, it appeared that on the day in question the defendants, accompanied by the wife of Brown and a young man named Shaw, who has not as yet been apprehended, entered the house of the complainant, and at once proceeded into the parlour and called for a quantity of ale, which was supplied to them by one of the servants. The room was observed previously by the domestics of the house to be in perfect order, and no one save the defendants after entered. After remaining in the house some time they departed, and the gas was immediately put out by one of the servants, and the door closed without notice being taken that anything had been displaced. The next morning the room was opened, and it was discovered that the bell wire had been severed, a stone from the back of the fireplace taken out, the fender trampled upon, and other articles broken or disarranged. The complainant stated that the only motive he could conceive for the offence being committed by the defendants, was that he had repeatedly discharged them from his house on account of their disorderly conduct. The men denied the charge, but were convicted and ordered to pay the damage, and also the expenses, 8s 9d each.

7 May 19 1853

CHARGE OF STEALING SUGAR On Monday night, and by remand on Wednesday, two men named **Thomas Hale** and **Joseph Pheasant**, boatmen, were placed before the borough magistrates on suspicion of stealing a quantity of sugar. From the evidence of Police-constable Cheetham, it appeared that as he was on duty near Canal Street, about a quarter past twelve on Sunday night last, he observed the prisoner Hale issue from a narrow passage leading to the canal side with a bag, apparently containing a heavy substance, upon his shoulder. As soon as the man perceived him, he turned and retreated as hastily as possible. The officer pursued him as far as the canal, where he observed him empty the bag into the water. He then ran across a plank into a boat, and drew the plank after him, and afterwards, with the assistance of Pheasant, pushed the boat into the middle of the water. Cheetham sprang his rattle, and obtained the assistance of Inspector Chamberlain and three subordinate officers, and in the space of about half an hour they succeeded in securing the prisoners, and conveyed them to the police station. Chamberlain and Cheetham then returned to the place whence they had taken the men, and after diligent search found the bag with a small portion of the sugar remaining. From further evidence that was adduced, it was ascertained that although part of the cargo of the boat was sugar, none was missing, and as there was no evidence to prove that the prisoners had stolen the property, they were discharged.

8 June 2 1853

MANSLAUGHTER BY A MILITIAMAN On Wednesday the 25th ult, considerable sensation was created in Newark, in consequence of a report having been pretty freely circulated through the town that a man named George Blackburn, a tanner, had died that morning in the Hospital from injuries he had received on the previous Sunday night from a militiaman belonging to the corps now undergoing training in this town. The inquest was held at the Cross Keys' Inn on Wednesday evening, before Robert Griffin Esq, coroner for the borough. At the request of Colonel Rolleston, commandant of the Royal Nottinghamshire Militia, William Newton Esq of the firm of Messrs Caparn and Newton, solicitors, attended to watch the proceedings on the part of the suspected person. The following gentlemen were sworn on the jury :- Mr Joseph Simpson (foreman), Mr Thomas Pinder, Mr Edward Harston, Mr James Oldham, Mr John Leake, Mr Thomas Cartledge, Mr James Ridley, Mr Robert Middleton, Mr John Menzie, Mr Reuben Wand, Mr George Fletcher, and Mr Edward Smith. Police officer Ratcliffe, upon his examination, stated as follows : I was on duty on Sunday night last, and on crossing Mr Hall's corner in Castle Gate a little after ten o'clock, my attention was drawn to some persons standing in the road ; they were Mr Doubleday, Mr Lilley, Mr Lineham, baker, and other persons whom I did not know. I found the deceased lying on the ground, and picked him up ; he was quite helpless, and in liquor. I found blood flowing from the back of his ear. I asked, "Who did this?" Mr Lilley said, "One of the militiamen ; I saw him do it ; I should know him again if I saw him". He (Lilley) said it had not been done more than two or three minutes. I saw no militiaman about. I took the deceased to the station ; he did not at that time say anything to me ; he was quite insensible. By Mr Watterton's direction I brought deceased from the station to the vagrant ward of the old workhouse ; he continued insensible, and was visited by the dispensary doctor. Mr Inspector Dunn ordered me to visit him every hour. I did so until three o'clock. At one o'clock he was very sick, but appeared sensible. I asked him his name. He said it was George Blackburn, and stated that he had been working at Bailey and Shaw's, tanners, for the last eight weeks. He said he came from Bermondsey in Surrey, had left Bailey and Shaw's, and was going to leave the town on Monday morning. I asked him if he knew if he was hurt badly. He raised his hand to his head, and said, "What did the physician say to me?", meaning as to what state he was in. I told him that he said, "You will be better when you get sober". Deceased said, "My head hurts me very bad, let me go home". I asked him where he lived, and he told me. I told him we would call for him the next round. (By the Coroner). He never mentioned any man striking him, nor any name, nor did he say how the injury was caused. I saw him at the police office. I was on one side of him when he came out. He staggered very much, and still complained of his head. He sat down in the hall. I asked police officer Hardy to see him home. Deceased then said, "I think I shall go mad". Hardy laid hold of his arm, and I saw him go home. I have not seen him from that time. John Lilley said : About half past ten o'clock on Sunday night, I saw deceased going out of Castle Gate into Mill Gate. There were three, four or five persons behind him. I know one, and also a militiaman ; the deceased was three or four yards before him. The persons made a sudden stop at the corner. I am not able to say if the men called to him, but the deceased, at whose back I was standing, stopped and turned back to them. Deceased said he would fight them for five shillings, but they never stirred. The deceased was in liquor, but was not drunk. Directly after the threat, the soldier struck him with his fist on the left side of the head. There were two blows struck by the militiaman, on the same side of the head ; the second blow knocked deceased down. I did not see any blows struck by the deceased. I heard no name mentioned. I do not know the militiaman, but should if I saw him again. The deceased said nothing ; he gurgled in his throat. It was beside the curb stone that he fell, but not on the curb. I did not hear deceased use any words but the challenge to fight. I saw none of the other parties strike a blow. The deceased was bleeding in the mouth, and very much about the back of the head. The militiaman said, "Oh dear, oh dear ; who struck him?" I said, "Why, you did". He said, "I have not". Witness then said he had, and the soldier again denied it, and then ran away. Witness ran after him, and caught him. I said, "I know you, and where your quarters are". He said nothing to me. I turned back and left him. I did not, in fact, know at the time where his quarters were, nor his name. I have no doubt the prisoner is the

man. The policeman came up a minute or two afterwards. I told him what had happened. I told Ratcliffe I thought I should know him again. (By the jury). When he (prisoner) was in gaol I saw him. It was not by description he was taken up. No other militiaman came up at that time ; he was the only soldier amongst them. I am sure the person now before me, named William Finch, is the person who struck the deceased. **James Spowage** of Newark, boatman, stated : I saw the deceased in Castle Gate about ten o'clock on Sunday night ; he was alone. I went to the posts opposite Mr Hall's, where three or four persons were standing. I and Kerry were there then. The deceased followed us, and when he had crossed over to Mill Gate he turned back and said, "I will fight any man for five shillings in the morning". A militiaman came up at the same instant, from the opposite side of the road, and struck the deceased with his clenched fist twice, the first in the face and again on the side of the head. Deceased never said a word to him (the soldier) ; a word never was passed between them. I picked the deceased up, and called the soldier a rogue. He said he did not do it, and ran away along Castle Gate. I went with deceased to the police station, and afterwards to the dispensary ; he bled very much from the ear and head. I cannot swear that the prisoner now present is the person who struck the deceased. George Kerry of Nottingham, a glove hand, also a private in the Nottingham Militia, said : I did not know the deceased. I saw him on Sunday night. I was not in regimental. I was with James Spowage (the last witness) about ten o'clock. There were four persons there, Fewkes, Doles, Spowage and myself. The deceased came up to us and offered to fight for a crown, or something of the sort. A person came up in regimentals, and struck the deceased on the side of the face. I said, "D---n it, don't hit a man that won't fight". The soldier then struck him again, and deceased dropped like a shot. The person now present is the man who struck the deceased. I have known him by the name of Finney. The inquest at this stage of the proceedings was adjourned until five o'clock the next day (Thursday) when the examination was resumed. John Fewkes of New Basford, lace maker, deposed as follows : I was with Kerry and other persons on Sunday night, at the top of Lombard Street ; it was about ten o'clock. I saw deceased leaning with his breast on the top of a post. A soldier they call Finney came up from the opposite side of the street, and struck the deceased in the face, without saying a word. The deceased said he would not strike him, he knew him, upon which Finney struck him again, with his clenched fist, under the left ear. The deceased fell down, and never spoke afterwards in my hearing. Finney then ran away, and Lilley ran after him. I know Finney well ; I have known him two or three years ; and am sure he was the man who struck the deceased. Finney was the only man in regimentals present. William Finch, now before me, is the man I have known as Finney, and he is the person who struck the deceased. Samuel Job of Newark, surgeon at the hospital, stated : On Saturday night last, as near eleven o'clock as possible, deceased was brought to the Hospital by two night policemen. Mr Watterton, the gaoler, ordered him to be taken to the vagrant ward where I first saw him. When I went to him, he began to vomit ; he was quite insensible. The matter vomited smelt very strongly of liquor, and I thought he appeared to be intoxicated. There was a great deal of blood on the back of his head on the left side. I examined his head, and could not find any wound, and concluded the blood flowed from his ear. I thought nothing could be done that night for him until he became sober, and told them to leave him till morning. In the morning I went to the gaoler and asked for the man, and was told that he had walked away. I did not see him again till Tuesday morning, when he was at Burgess' in Millgate. I found him at intervals in a half conscious state, at other times he was delirious ; he made no complaint to me. On examining his head, I found a great deal of serous fluid which had flowed from his left ear. I bled him and adopted other remedies. At twelve o'clock I visited him again, and found him totally unconscious. I ordered them at once to bring him into the Hospital. He continued much in the same state until Wednesday morning, when he died about five o'clock. I made a *post mortem* examination in conjunction with Mr Hodgkinson. On examining the body I found no mark of violence whatever ; I had the head shaved and found a large clot of effused blood on the left side, and on removing the brain, I found a fracture extending half way through the base of the skull communicating with the left ear. There was also a large quantity of fluid blood on the base of the brain which had escaped from the fracture, which with the coagulum on the side of the head I have no doubt caused the death. I should say the injuries might

have been caused by a direct blow, or by a fall, but more likely by a fall. The injuries the man received must certainly have caused his death ; his bleeding from the ear prolonged his life. This closed the evidence. The coroner then addressed the jury, observing that there could be no doubt as to the prisoner Finch being the person who struck the deceased. Whether the blow or the fall was the cause of death would be immaterial as affected the prisoner, as in either case he would be guilty of manslaughter. The jury, after consulting together for some time, returned a verdict of manslaughter against William Finch. The prisoner was then committed upon the coroner's warrant to the Borough Gaol, and the next day was conveyed to Nottingham to await his trial at the next assizes. He appears to be about 24 years of age, and his friends in Nottingham are, it is stated, in very respectable circumstances.

9 June 9 1853

CHARGE OF FELONY At the police office on Wednesday last, a man named **Edward Andrews**, apprehended under a warrant, was charged with stealing £2 11s 6d, the property of his employer, Mr Richard Birmingham, coal merchant, Canal Street. The prisoner, it appeared, was captain of a boat belonging to the prosecutor, and on the 17th instant was instructed by his master to proceed with the boat on a journey to Little Eaton, and the sum of £3 was entrusted to him for the purpose of paying the dues. He had not done so, however, but on arriving at a certain part of his journey had quitted his charge, and taken the money with him. He was subsequently apprehended at Leicester by one of the police force of that town, and given into the custody of police officer Meldrum. In answer to the charge, the prisoner stated that he had committed the offence while under the influence of liquor, and intended to refund the money. He was remanded until this day (Thursday) when he was again placed before the Bench and discharged, the prosecutor requesting that the charge might be withdrawn.

10 June 9 1853

CHILD FOUND IN THE CANAL On Saturday last, Mr Coroner Browne held an inquest at the Watch House, St John Street, over the body of a male child which had been found dead in the Nottingham Canal, under circumstances given below. It appears that about half past seven o'clock on Friday evening, Alfred Knight, a tobacconist living in Pemberton Street, had his attention directed to a gentleman who was standing against a wall, near to the Pinder's house, and looking at something in the canal. The object at which the gentleman was gazing, and which was floating near the bank, proved to be the body of a child which had been wrapped in a bundle of rags, and a piece of iron piping having been attached to its neck, had been placed in the water. The evidence of Mr Thomas Barwis, surgeon, who had made a *post mortem* examination, was to the effect that no mark of violence was visible upon the body of the deceased, except that which was made upon the neck by the cord to which the iron piping was attached. The child was evidently full grown, but whether it had been born alive he could not, from the advanced state of decomposition, undertake to say. The cause of death was asphyxia, and from the appearance of the deceased he had been in the water ten days or a fortnight. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased had been found dead in the canal.

11 June 9 1853

DETERMINED ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE On Monday last at the borough police court, a respectable looking female was placed before the magistrates by Police-constable Weatherbed, at the instance of a gentleman named Handford of Birmingham, and charged with endeavouring to commit suicide by attempting to throw herself over the parapet of a certain bridge crossing a portion of the canal lying contiguous to the goods department of the Midland Railway Station. The prisoner stated that her name was Jane Roworth, and that she was 48 years of age, and lived in Cannon Yard, Long Row. It appears from the evidence adduced that shortly after two o'clock in the morning of Monday, the attention of the police officer was drawn towards the prisoner, who was on the top of Carrington Street Bridge, and attempting to throw herself over into the canal beneath.

Weatherbed approached, prevented her executing her fatal design, and ordered her away. She at first refused to go but, after some difficulty, he succeeded in driving her away. Mr Handford, who had just arrived in Nottingham per mail train, observing the singular demeanour of the prisoner, was induced to watch her proceedings. She appeared very excited, but not under the influence of liquor. He heard the police officer discharge her from the bridge and request her to go into the town. She absolutely refused to comply with the request, and persisted in walking along the hauling path, by the side of the water. After some hesitation, and by the advice of Mr Handford, the woman was permitted to proceed by the side of the canal, as she desired, followed by the constable at a distance of between 60 and 70 yards. She walked hurriedly along, and on arriving at the bridge situate between Carrington Street Bridge and the Navigation Inn, she sprang up the side, and was in the act of descending into the water, when the police officer caught hold of her hand and a portion of her garments, and succeeded in dragging her back. Mr Handford then insisted on her being conducted to the police station. The prisoner expressed great sorrow, and in her defence stated that she could not conceive any motive for attempting to commit the offence imputed to her charge. She further stated that she had not been partaking of intoxicating liquors, but had arisen early in the morning for the purpose of taking the benefit of the morning air. The magistrates, after a serious admonition, discharged the prisoner on a promise being made that a similar attempt should not be made again.

12 June 23 1853

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

OUTRAGEOUS CONDUCT **John Newton**, 23, boatman, Edward Street, was brought up in the custody of Police-constable Cheetham, and charged with being drunk and disorderly and assaulting him in the execution of his duty, about two o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday in the Market Place. It seems that a short time previous to the prisoner's apprehension, he had rather unceremoniously saluted Mr Harvey, landlord of the Lord Byron, and demanded some money. The demand, of course, was not heeded, and he became exceedingly abusive. The protection of the Police-constable was sought, and upon Cheetham interfering, the prisoner struck him a violent blow. Cheetham therefore, with the assistance of Police-constable Rodely, secured and conveyed him to the watch house. The Bench considered the charge fully proved, and convicted the prisoner in the penalty of 20s and costs ; in default he was committed for one month to hard labour.

13 June 30 1853

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MIDSUMMER SESSIONS The following prisoner pleaded guilty :-

John Haywood, 19, boatman, to stealing one plated pint measure, the property of Samuel Marriott, at Gunthorpe. Fourteen days' imprisonment.

14 August 11 1853

DEATH FROM DROWNING IN THE GRANTHAM CANAL On Friday afternoon last, a youth named Charles Downes Jowitt met with an accidental death from drowning in the Grantham Canal. It appears that the deceased, who was about eight years of age, had been fishing at the mouth of the Grantham Canal where it joins the river Trent, a short distance below the Trent Bridge, and at the time of the accident he was just starting home. A boat which was being drawn down the Trent was about fifty yards from the canal, and the driver of the horse was in such a position that he could not see the deceased, and the latter was not aware of the approach of the boat. Even then, however, the horse was upon the bridge, and as the deceased had not time to avoid the danger, the rope caught him upon the neck and dashed him into the canal at a place where it is seven feet deep. His brother, who was in his company, immediately called for assistance, and the boatman and **Mr William Wilde**, who superintends a lock which is situated at the place, immediately used exertions to rescue the youth from his perilous position. Their exertions, however, proved a failure, and the deceased sank. The body was raised from the water by means of a boat pole, and conveyed to Mr Wilde's house, where the usual means for restoration were applied, but without effect. On the 6th, and by adjournment on the 9th instant, an official inquiry was made into the circumstances of the case at the

Victoria Hotel, by M Browne Esq, deputy coroner for this county, and a verdict to the effect that the deceased was accidentally drowned was returned by the jury. The circumstances attending the death of the deceased ought to act as a warning to those persons who from stupidity or inattention choose to risk danger rather than move a few yards out of the way. The boatman before mentioned stated when before the coroner that on the same day several persons who were also fishing by the side of the Trent below the place where the present accident happened very narrowly escaped, in consequence of not moving out of the way of the boat rope. In one instance the hat of one person was taken off.

15 August 18 1853

POLICE CASES, THURSDAY **John Cooper**, a boatman, was remanded on a charge of stealing a silver plated cup, the property of Mr John Pacey, innkeeper, Castle Donington.

16 September 8 1853

ACCIDENTAL DEATH FROM DROWNING On Tuesday last, the County Coroner, C Swann Esq, held an inquest at the Royal Oak public house, East Bridgeford, touching the death of **Thomas Millington**. It appears that on Saturday afternoon last the deceased, who was 26 years of age and lived with his father, **Mr Matthew Millington**, cottager and boatman, at East Bridgeford, was getting gravel with some other men out of the river Trent, opposite to Shelford, being himself employed in "spooning", or keeping down the dredging bag at the bottom of the water while the same was being filled with gravel. As he was so engaged, he fell into the water, where it was seven feet deep, and immediately sank. As soon as possible the boat hook was thrown out, and the boat was put in motion, the deceased having by this time been carried some distance by the stream, and too far to avail himself of the means used for his rescue. He sank before the boat could reach him, and was not again seen until the morning of the inquest, when his body was found about a mile from where the unfortunate occurrence took place, and carried home. The deceased was very much respected by all who knew him, and his death was the subject of much sorrow. The jury found that the deceased had been accidentally drowned in the river Trent.

17 September 8 1853

DEATHS At Fiskerton on the 27th ult, **Mr Thomas Andrews**, boatman, aged 66 years.

18 September 8 1853

MISTERTON On the 2nd inst, an inquest was held over the body of Henry Wright, who was accidentally drowned on the previous Wednesday in the river Idle. From the evidence adduced, it appeared that Hannah, the wife of James Holmes of Misterton, publican, who keeps the Haxey Gate Inn near the river Idle, on Wednesday last about three o'clock in the afternoon, went across the road and saw the deceased and two other children in a boat on the river ; the deceased was sculling the boat. She went into the house, and directly afterwards heard a screaming. She went out and saw the deceased in the water, and went to inform his parents directly, who live close by the water. When she came back, the deceased had sunk. She saw James Rylatt take him out. He was quite dead. They rubbed him with salt and hot flannels, but it was of no avail. **James Rylatt** of Misterton, boatman, said : About three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon I searched the river Idle for the deceased, and pulled him out. He gave a gasp, and died soon afterwards. Verdict : "Accidentally drowned".

19 September 13 1853

RETFORD About two o'clock on Sunday morning last, as Police-constable Brown was on duty in the Market Place, East Retford, he heard the cries of someone in distress, and proceeded in search of the party ; however, on leaving the Market Place and going towards the part from whence he supposed the sound came, he could no longer distinguish it. He returned to the Market Place again, and carefully following the noise, was led to Billy Dixon's wharf, West Retford, where he found a

man in the canal up to the chin in water. He proved to be a waterman named **John Whitaker** from Chesterfield, who having indulged himself too freely with Sir John Barleycorn, and impelled by a call of nature, had gone to the water side when, as is usual with anything top heavy, he went head foremost into the canal ; he, however, managed to get his feet in the right place very speedily, but having lowered his unmentionables, and they being well down in the water, he feared to have another duck, and rather than run the risk of being overpowered by his friend Sir John's potent energy, was resolved to remain as he was, making the best use of his voice. He had remained in that plight for nearly two hours when rescued by Brown ; and it is singular that notwithstanding there are a dozen inhabited houses within from 10 to 60 yards of the spot, no one heard him, and he might have perished without any help ; as it was, he had a very narrow escape.

20 November 17 1853

NEWARK

INQUEST On Wednesday night an inquest was held at the Pack Horse Inn, Hawton Road, before Robert Griffin Esq, coroner for the borough, touching the death of William Hunt, a child seven years old, son of Mr Hunt of Spring Gardens of Newark, when the following evidence was adduced :- **Mr Thomas Elson**, lock-keeper at Newark Trent Navigation, saw deceased, William Hunt, in the water below the locks about 12 o'clock ; he made no motion, and was floating ; witness made an alarm ; a man who was driving a horse saw the deceased first, and he called witness's attention to the body ; he then went, and another man who was in a boat coming up, took the body out of the water, and the child displayed no symptoms of life, but frothed at the mouth for some time ; thought the body was not cold, but could not positively say ; felt confident the line from the boat did not draw the child into the water ; witness was walking to and fro for several minutes near the spot, and believed that the deceased must have been in the water before the boat came up ; had seen the boy frequently about there, and had driven him away. (A juryman stated that the boys now and then went, as he had heard, to the river to wash their school slates). When the body was got out of the water, it was taken to Mr F Hodgkinson's, surgeon, Castle Gate : covered the child with a blanket ; did not see the body afterwards. The witness stated that he believed there was a projecting stone at the wall, which held out a temptation for youths to approach when, in fact, it was dangerous to do so, and he should strongly recommend its removal. F Hodgkinson Esq asked if a railing could not be afforded for protection, for there had been several cases brought to his surgery, which had been, he was glad to say, unattended with loss of life. The deceased was brought to his surgery at about a quarter past 12 o'clock, wrapped in a blanket ; the men who conveyed the body told him how the death was effected ; had his clothes cut off immediately, and applied hot blankets ; afterwards found that his heart had ceased to beat ; rubbed him with a preparation of ammonia, and then tried a galvanic apparatus, but all animation had evidently ceased ; examined his head, but could find no mark, though he was of opinion that death was caused by drowning, and added that Miss Readhouse came to his surgery and said the deceased had left her school before 12 o'clock. Verdict : "Accidentally drowned". The jury strongly recommended that something of a protective kind should be adopted, whereby any future accident may be prevented, which can be easily and effectively carried out ; and the sooner the better.

21 November 17 1853

MAN FOUND DROWNED IN THE CANAL Yesterday (Wednesday), Mr Coroner Browne held an official inquiry into the death of **Richard Simpson**, a boatman living at Fiskerton, 48 years of age. On Tuesday night the deceased drank liquor at the house of Mr Hickling, until he was incapable of helping himself. A man named Thomas Long took him to his boat which was lying in the canal, and having locked him in the cabin, left him. The next morning he was found drowned in the canal. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.

22 December 29 1853

THE CLIFTON WOOD CASE This important case, Lewis v Clifton Bart, was decided in the

Court of Common Pleas on Thursday at half past six o'clock, in the Nisi Prius Sittings in London, before Lord Chief Justice Jervis and a Special Jury, after having occupied the whole of Tuesday and Wednesday.

The declaration stated that the defendant, on 21st February last, put up for sale by public auction a large quantity of growing timber, then standing on certain lands of the defendant at Clifton, in the county of Nottingham, subject to certain conditions of sale, and that the plaintiff was the highest bidder, and was declared the purchaser of certain lots for the sum of £688 15s ; that the plaintiff paid the required deposit, and did all that was necessary on his part ; yet, although the defendant afterwards suffered the plaintiff to fell and carry away certain timber, he would not suffer the plaintiff to carry away the remainder of the timber so purchased ; but, on the contrary, wholly refused to do so, whereby the plaintiff was deprived of his property, and was obliged to buy timber elsewhere at a much higher price, and was, moreover, unable to fill his contracts, to the plaintiff's damage of £3,000. The defendant pleaded that he did not promise ; that the plaintiff was not willing to have the timber in Lot 53, pursuant to the conditions of sale ; that he did suffer the plaintiff to carry away the remainder of the timber ; that he was induced to enter into the contract by the fraud of the plaintiff ; that the plaintiff received other timber in substitution and satisfaction of that he purchased at the auction ; and a special plea to the effect that the plaintiff had fraudulently felled and removed timber that had not been sold of greater quantity and more value than that he had purchased ; and, therefore, the defendant would not suffer him to remove the remainder of the timber, but refused to do so, as alleged in the declaration.

The Attorney General, Mr Gray, and Mr Rupert Kettle were counsel for the plaintiff ; and Mr Sergeant Byles, Mr James QC and Mr Hawkins for the defendant.

The Attorney General stated that the plaintiff was a timber merchant carrying on trade at Dudley Port in Staffordshire, and the defendant was Sir Robert Jukes Clifton, a young baronet, who a few years ago succeeded to an estate of some magnitude at Clifton, in the county of, and within a short distance of the town of Nottingham. The defendant had participated in those pursuits which the young men of his age so often indulged in. Early in life he had gone upon the turf, and whether from that or from other circumstances, at the end of the year 1852, soon after the death of his father, the defendant caused a large portion of the timber upon the Clifton estate to be offered for sale by public auction. The sale took place at an inn in the town of Nottingham, in the month of February last. Amongst the lots offered for sale was part of the timber in Clifton Grove – the ornament of the estate – standing on a declivity between the avenue through which the road to the mansion house passed and the river Trent. Clifton Grove was an important feature in the landscape of that part of Nottinghamshire. Many a tall and stately tree had fallen to supply wants created by the pursuits of its proprietor, and so Clifton Grove could not escape the axe. The timber in the Grove was Lot 53. 853 trees were blazed, and a larger number crossed for poles. The arrangements for the sale had been made in great haste, and the slopes, from the steepness and entanglement, were difficult of access. The trees were not numbered before the sale, as was the custom, nor were the trees left to stand, marked. The plaintiff went before the sale to examine the lots, with other timber merchants. He took the best view he could of the grove lot. At the sale, he said he could not find 852 trees blazed ; but the auctioneer, Mr Pott, stated that the number should be made up to a purchaser, and a condition of sale to that effect was added. The plaintiff bought several lots, and amongst them Lot 53. After the sale, the agent and woodman of Sir Robert Clifton went through the grove ; they found the right number of trees were not blazed, they therefore numbered what were found blazed, and they went on to blaze and number others, but still they could not make up more than 771. The plaintiff's men then began to fell the trees. Upon being informed that Lady Clifton objected to have certain of the marked trees felled, the plaintiff without hesitation waived his right and accepted others in their stead. Still rumours got into circulation that there was some unfair cutting of timber at the grove. Upon being applied to by Mr Hawkes, the land agent of the estate, by a letter of the 16th of April, as follows :-

Nottingham, April 16 1852

DEAR SIR – There has been observations made by a Mr Butler of Clifton, and Mr Hopwell of the same place, that more trees are marked and fallen in Clifton Grove than you bought by auction. This is a serious charge against your foreman and my man Voce. Mr Butler has counted the trees, and reports that there are already 968 trees marked and fallen, and 452 poles. This assertion cannot rest without further inquiry ; I therefore propose to meet you at the Grove on Tuesday morning next, with Outram and Voce, and I will write to Mr Butler and Mr Hopwell to be on the spot to show what they report. I shall condemn the men if I find this report true, and I shall support them fully if I find it a piece of jealous falsehood ; and I trust, and have no doubt, you will do the same.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully

M HAWKES

Mr Lewis

The plaintiff, who himself attended but seldom at Clifton, came at once to meet those upon whose information the reports originated ; this was in the month of April, but they refused to meet him. In the month of June, a Mr Davis, an attorney residing in Clifford Street in London, took a prominent part in the matter. At this time further allegations were made, which led Mr Hawkes to write the following letter to the plaintiff, with a copy of a letter which he had received from Mr Campbell :-

Nottingham June 13th 1853

DEAR SIR – Mr Bush has this moment informed me that Mr Lewis's men are again in the Grove at Clifton with their axes, have actually this morning felled some trees. Now, under the circumstances of which you are cognisant, I feel it to be my imperative duty to require you, as the agent in the matter representing the interests of Sir Robert Clifton, to prevent another tree or pole being either felled or removed by Mr Lewis's men from the estate, until the allegations, which you yourself have again heard so pointedly and forcibly made, are fully investigated and satisfactorily cleared up.

Yours faithfully,

H BRUCE CAMPBELL

Mr Hawkes

Nottingham June 14th 1853

DEAR SIR – Some further observations having been made, by a gentleman by the name of Bush, to Mr Campbell and to myself regarding the timber your men have taken down in Clifton Grove - “that a large amount is stolen from it, and that trees have been taken down on the hedgerows which were not marked”, I have felt it to be my duty to stop your men from taking down any more timber, or removing any more, till this charge is fully cleared up. I enclose you a copy of letter from Mr Campbell to me on the subject, and shall beg of you immediately to come over and bring your books and any other means available for disproving this charge.

I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

M HAWKES

Mr William Lewis

A person named Bush, who had offices in the same house with Davis, had been employed to take charge of the estate. Davis added to his trade as a solicitor the business of transactions upon bills, and it appeared the young baronet was in his hands. The new agents Davis and Bush were in anger with the old family agent at Nottingham, Mr Campbell, and with Hawkes ; but with this the timber merchant from Staffordshire had nothing whatever to do. He was a perfect stranger to all the parties. As many of the trees in the grove were, although large at the bottom, so bad that they had not ten feet of sound timber in them, they had been marked as poles, this was not a safe or a fair way of judging the number of trees felled. A man named Outram, who had been formerly employed by the plaintiff, had been got hold of by Bush, and had made some extraordinary statements. Upon

these facts, Bush had actually laid an information before the magistrates at Nottingham against the plaintiff, his brother, Mr Henry Lewis, and Voce, the woodman at Clifton, for a conspiracy to steal the timber, which was of course dismissed. The plaintiff, conscious of his own right, had therefore brought this action to recover compensation for the value, not only for the timber yet to be delivered in Lot 53, but also in the hedgerow lots, of which a large number of trees had been felled by him, and others marked to fall, which he had paid for, but which the defendant's agents now refused to allow him to carry away.

To prove this case, the plaintiff called Mr Hugh Bruce Campbell, the family solicitor, who proved the instructions for the sale from the defendant. He produced Voce's book of the numbers marked. Mr Matthew Hawkes proved the way in which the grove was set out. Sir R Clifton objected to his putting a white paint mark round the trees intended to stand. The best protection in such a case was ringing the standards ; but as that was objected to, he put a spot of white paint on the trees that were to be left. He employed Voce to assist him. Voce knew well how to set out timber. The whole of the 864 not being numbered, he wished to make up what the particulars specified, and the conditions, as amended, provided for. He therefore ordered Voce to go into the grove, and number more trees to make up the number. This witness was severely cross-examined as to his employment of Voce – his knowledge of Voce's competency, and his own opinion of what constituted a pole or cypher in the timber trade, and also as to his own attendance in the woods ; the result of which was, that he believed Voce competent ; that a cross pole was a tree less than six inches diameter at five feet high ; that a cypher was a tree of any size being unsound, and that he was in the woods more frequently after he heard rumours than before.

Voce was called, and proved the setting out and marking of the timber, and that no timber had been marked or felled improperly, except two trees felled by mistake.

Mr William Lewis, the plaintiff, was next called. He proved such of the facts opened by the Attorney General as were within his knowledge, and denied that he had ever marked or knew of the marking or altering the mark upon any trees, or having given anything to Voce, or paid for any drink for him, unless a glass given to him with the other men when he went to the wood. The interesting point of this witness's evidence arose out of some letters. In his cross-examination a letter was put into his hand which he said was in his handwriting. It was as follows :-

Henley Heath, Tipton, July 18th 1853

J Outram – You had better go over to Chesterfield, and get all that timber in readiness, and get it drawn to the station at once, and then you will be out of the way. I will try to come over next week, and then put you right on other points, or go and help William at Sheffield for a short time, as shall have another place shortly to place you at, &c.

I am, yours truly,
W LEWIS

He was asked if “being out of the way” did not relate to the transactions at Clifton Grove, which he denied, and said that Outram was in difficulties, and that he had promised to assist him with money through the Insolvent Court, and that he had advised him to go out of the way to prevent his being taken in execution.

On re-examination, the following letter from Outram to the plaintiff was read. The post mark on the envelope was Burrowash, July 17th.

Derby, July 1853

Sir – I have not atended to your orders this week. I ham sorey to say as thear is too Executions out against me, and the pean and trubble of mind as cassed me to be in bed 2 days. I whent to Sheffield to see the attorney but hee wass Dead.

But if you wish me to go on with the plan you lade down to me and see me right, send me a letter by return of poast, and I will go to Alveston on Monday morning, and tell Hincks to inform you of the wole afair. If you doant write I shall go right of for a rite, as I dare not be seen. Pleas to write

of Borawash, and dyrect to Charles Outram. Charles and John Outram and William Smith have had £7 for the coal and the wark at ----, and wants £5 17s 6d more to pay them all up.

Your servant

JOSH OUTRAM

Witness said his letter before read was an answer to this letter from Outram, and that the next day he received from Outram the following letter, which was the first intimation he received that anything was said to be wrong at Clifton Grove.

Derby, July 18th 1853

Mr Lewis – Sir – I think you are making a fool of me. But you must not. If you do, I shall make a ---- of you. I ham sorry to say the words, but poverty and disgrace will make a man speak is feelings. Tho I tould you the situation that I was fixt in , but doant anser. Sir, thear has been a gentelman from London at Thos Abbotts to inquire about the timber at Clifton Grove, and they are in search of me, and Mrs Abbott toald me that they wood transport bouth William Voce and their men, and they want me. Now, Mr Lewis, if you doant send me money by rail tomorrow by the eleven o'clock train, I shall ---- ----. You have ruined me and my family, and brought us into more poverty than a poper on the parish. But after all, if you be a friend to me with my own money, I shall be a friend to you. But I am now lay in the fields for three nights, and my sons are wantin for bred.

Now I shall not write to you animore. I have been a servant to you, and faithful, and if you bee a master, act as sich.

JOSH OUTRAM

Henry Lewis, the plaintiff's brother, deposed that he superintended the felling of timber in Clifton Grove ; that none was felled but what was marked ; that the number of trees sent away was 319 ; that 780 were all that were marked ; that 19 had been knocked down, or injured in felling ; and that of the 780 trees, 27 had been allowed to stand at the request of Lady Clifton. In Lot 53, there were 376 not yet taken away.

Other witnesses were called who had assisted in marking and setting out the timber, and who gave further testimony.

This was the plaintiff's case.

Mr Serjeant Byles then addressed the jury for the defendant. He must admit that in his father's lifetime the defendant did get into difficulties, but Mr Davis, his present attorney, got him out of them for the sum of £25,000, to the equal satisfaction both of the father and the son. The timber on the estate had not been pruned for 40 years, and on the defendant's succeeding to the property, it was resolved to thin it. In addition to the timber marked for sale and sold, no less than 148 trees of ornamental timber were cut down during the defendant's absence in Paris. This caused great excitement in the neighbourhood, and at length some of the old tenants on the estate went to Mr Campbell and remonstrated. Others communicated with the defendant, and he thereupon returned to Clifton, bringing with him Mr Davis, his attorney. An investigation took place, the result of which was that it was found, although only 852 trees were sold, that 1533 were taken, and although the purchase money was only £688, the plaintiff had sold timber which he had removed for £400, and he claimed £1500 for that which had not been removed, but which he said belonged to him. The learned serjeant then called the following witnesses :-

Sir R Clifton : I am the defendant. My father died in October 1852. Mr Davis had been previously employed by my father with reference to some pecuniary embarrassments I had fallen into. When this timber was sold, I was in Paris. I received a communication from Neale, one of my tenants. I sent to Mr Davis to come to Paris, and he came. I then came to England, and went to Clifton Hall in May. I found a great deal of very large timber cut down. I sent for Hawkes, and made inquiries of him and others. The result was I stopped the men and defended this action.

Cross-examined : I became acquainted with Davis two years ago. He was entrusted with a sum of

money by my father. I entrusted him with the arrangement of my affairs. He is raising money for me at this time. He is now about completing the terms. I gave instructions for felling the timber soon after my father's death. Mr Campbell was local agent in some matters for my father. I think there was an injunction moved for in Chancery to prevent my cutting timber. Neale is a recent tenant on the estate. He had been entrusted with a large stud of horses. I knew Bush through Mr Davis. He recommended me to send him down as steward and land agent.

Mr Davis, attorney, Clifford Street, Bond Street : I have been concerned for defendant since June 1851. Negotiations are going on with a life insurance office which will pay off the incumbrances on his estate and leave defendant a very large income. The timber was felled for the twofold object of improving the covers and raising money. Defendant telegraphed me to come to Paris, and I afterwards went with him to Clifton. I went to Nottingham and called on Mr Campbell. I complained to him of what I had seen. I directed him to see that no more timber was removed until he had satisfied himself that there was nothing wrong. On a second visit, I desired that Mr Campbell and Mr Hawkes should meet defendant at Clifton Hall. The result was that the removal of the timber was stopped.

Cross-examined : That was not the only result ; an action has been brought against me for defamation of Mr Hawkes's character. We have also brought an action against the plaintiff in trover to recover the timber he has improperly removed.

The Lord Chief Justice : Really this is a very alarming prospect for the gentlemen who go on the midland circuit.

Mr Bush, a land agent in Clifford Street, Bond Street, deposed that he had been at the grove before the sale, and had measured some of the timber. Was present at the sale. Went down after the sale, and saw a barge laden with very large ash. The plaintiff was directing the loading. None of those trees in the boat had been marked for sale, or included in the sale. Previous to the sale there were not more than 20 trees marked on the table land. I have since examined the table land, and 128 trees have been cut down on it, containing 6254 feet. The stools averaged about three feet in diameter. I know these were not marked previous to the sale. I noticed also the stools of four elms at the slope near the waterside. They were pointed out by Outram. The first I calculated to contain at least 90 feet, the third 110 feet, the fourth 92. These ought not to have been cut, there being no other trees near them. I also saw the stools of 40 beech trees, all of which had been cut down and removed. One would have contained not less than 140 feet. I did not measure the rest. I am sure thirty seven of these were not blazed before the sale. I had noticed that no large trees were marked for sale in lot fifty three. I find a number of trees still standing which were originally blazed as trees, but have been since crossed on the blaze, and thereby converted into poles. There are about 100 of these. I noticed some that were felled without any mark at all. There are also five blazed, but not numbered. All these are on the slope of the grove. There was also a large sycamore felled, which had no mark on a short time previous. It measured at least 100 feet, and was felled with the leaf on, which called my attention to it. I observed before the sale there were no large trees marked in Little Wood. Since the sale I find 29 trees more than that lot contained have been felled there. There were twin ashes, one of which was marked and the other not. Both are gone. In lot 49 some are cut without any mark. I saw in the Trent a great number of roots which had been trundled into the water from lot 53 ; but notwithstanding this I counted 990 stools and 543 trees standing which had been marked to come down. The largest trees have been taken. Nothing had been done to the wood for 40 years, so that the trees had at least 40 years growth in them. Altogether I calculate that 19,950 feet of timber is gone.

Mr Huskisson, land agent, confirmed Mr Bush's testimony as to the quantity of timber removed.

Joseph Outram : I was engaged by plaintiff to remove trees in Clifton Wood in March. There were also two people named Preston and Hardstaff, and Voce. Voce told the men which trees to mark. I kept an account of those marked. Voce kept none. I left my book with Henry Lewis. (H Lewis being called upon to produce it, denied that he had ever received it). Afterwards Voce kept a book, and mine was copied into it. Voce gave the men directions which trees to sheave and scribe and take down. Many trees were cut down that had not been marked or blazed. I remember a tree

dotted with white to stand. Plaintiff said, "We'll have this tree". His brother and Voce were there. Henry Lewis took out a knife and removed the mark. By plaintiff's direction I then marked it with a scribe. It was an elm, and might have from 90 to 100 feet of timber in it. We then went to another elm, nearly the size of the other, and cut the mark off that. Plaintiff said, "D--- it, you've left the paint on the ground", and then I went back and trod it in the ground. We did so to four others of from 80 to 100 feet that had not been marked. Plaintiff once asked me if Voce kept an account, and I said, "No". He said, "D--- it, he must have an account, or there'll be a noise about it". After that I gave my book to H Lewis. The workmen were supplied with drink, which was charged to Lewis. I and Voce lodged together. Plaintiff told me I had better go away, or there would be a talk about me and Voce drinking together so much. I then left. I came back on the Monday following. I was on good terms with H Lewis. We used to play skittles together. Voce played with us. We used to go many times to Nottingham at night in a cab. Voce went with us. Plaintiff did not come down to Clifton many times. I remember an American oak standing on the drift hill not marked. I saw Lewis and Voce standing there, and soon after I saw it was marked. Afterwards Voce asked me if I had taken it down. I said no. He said, "Then do not, or there will be a noise about it". It was not taken down. I received letters from plaintiff. Plaintiff said many times he would make me presents. He said he would make me independent.

Cross-examined : I did spend three nights in the fields, for fear I should be took about the Clifton business. I did keep my bed because my mind was affected. It hurt my feelings to that degree (Laughter). I got nothing from plaintiff. I wrote to Sir R Clifton the next day or the day after. Voce did not keep a book until plaintiff came down. The landlord where we lodged did not approve of our proceedings. We used to come home late in a cab, and rather "tossicated". I knew all that was going on at the grove.

George Cayless and Stewart Bosworth, boatmen, deposed to carrying timber in their boats.

William Butler, lock-keeper on the Trent, deposed that 578 tons passed through the lock, of which 548 came from the grove. This was very fine timber. It was 40 feet to the ton.

Mr Whitehead, head woodman to Lord Middleton, deposed that some extraordinary large timber had been cut down in Clifton Grove. One tree had at least as much as 170 feet of timber in it. Valuable timber had been cut from the flat - "wonderful valuable timber".

Saul Mitchell, gamekeeper at Clifton Hall, deposed that 148 trees were ornamental, and had not been marked before the sale.

William Burton, carpenter, deposed that the timber marked for selling was inferior timber, and he considered it sold dear. The crossed poles were very few.

Mr Hawkins, another carpenter, gave similar evidence.

James Upton, woodman to Earl Manvers, deposed that about the time of the sale, the plaintiff bought ash of him at an average of 2s a foot.

Thomas Price deposed that he saw Henry Lewis and Voce cut off the marks on five trees marked to stand, and put on them the mark to fall. Before the sale, the plaintiff told him that Lot 53 was a very bad lot, and they would never sell it ; that it was not worth buying, for there was no timber in it.

Other witnesses were about to be called when the Jury said they did not wish to hear any more evidence. They were quite prepared to find a verdict for the defendant.

The Attorney General then replied on the defendant's evidence in a powerful and eloquent speech for the plaintiff.

The Lord Chief Justice : Gentlemen, do you wish me to sum up this case?

One of the Jurors replied, "No", but several others said, "Yes, my lord, certainly, certainly".

His Lordship then summed up, directing the jury upon technical ground to find for the defendant on the first issue, in consequence of a variance in the pleadings, but intimating that he did not think the defendant had made out his plea that the plaintiff had fraudulently entered into the contract. The last and material plea of subsequent fraud, his lordship left to the jury, after stating to them the effect of the evidence related to it ; and ultimately the jury returned a verdict for the defendant upon the first and last pleas, and upon the others for the plaintiff, being substantially a verdict for the

defendant.

Verdict for the defendant.

23 January 5 1854

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE EPIPHANY SESSIONS The following prisoner pleaded guilty :-

Edward Richardson, 24, boatman, to stealing four fowls, the property of Edward Clarke, at Bingham, on the 8th December. The prisoner having been previously convicted, he was committed to prison for six months to hard labour, the first and last week solitary.

24 January 12 1854

RETFORD EPIPHANY SESSIONS **John Burridge**, 40, boatman, charged with stealing on the 6th December last at West Stockwith a bucket and rope, the property of John Shaw, pleaded not guilty, and the jury immediately on hearing the statement of the prosecutor and police officer, which only showed that the articles had been found in an unused stable in the possession of defendant, brought in a verdict of not guilty.

25 January 12 1854

WORKSOP

ACCIDENT On Tuesday the 3rd inst, **Richard Bell**, waterman of Worksop, met with a serious accident while returning from the coal pits near Barlborough. Having arrived within about two or three miles of Worksop, as he was walking alongside his horse (owing to the slippery state of the road) the animal slipped and knocked him down, which caused his left shoulder to be put out. He managed to get home, and called in Mr B Eddison, surgeon, who used such means as the case required. We hear Bell is going on favourably.

26 January 26 1854

MISTERTON

ROBBERY PREVENTED, AND CAPTURE OF THE THIEVES On Friday night last, a serious robbery was prevented at this village, by timely forethought. A day or two ago Mr Cooling, who lives at Gainsborough, but who has a farm and extensive brick and tile works in the above parish, had thrashed out a large quantity of wheat, and had got it ready dressed for the market, having placed it in a barn on his premises. On the evening in question, a person of the name of **John Johnson**, a boatman, moored his boat in the Chesterfield Canal near Mr Cooling's premises, and knowing that Johnson was a notorious character, and being suspicious of his intentions, Mr C placed a man in a stable adjoining the barn to keep watch during the night. About midnight Johnson and another man of the name of Herrod, the latter who were in the employ of Mr C, approached the barn, and proceeded to unlock the barn door, when the man who had been set to watch called out. On the following morning the circumstance was made known to Mr Cooling, who might well congratulate himself on the precautions he had taken. Information was given to the police, who proceeded to Misterton, and took both prisoners into custody. They were conveyed before H B W Milner Esq at Retford. Johnson was sentenced to three calendar months hard labour at Southwell, as a rogue and a vagabond, and the other to six weeks.

27 February 2 1854

RETFORD

TOWN HALL, JANUARY 30 **Richard Jackson** of Misterton, a boatman, was charged with stealing, on the night of the 4th ult, twelve bushels of wheat of the value of £5, the property of J Corringham Esq. Another man, now in the House of Correction at Southwell, was seen in company with Jackson at twelve o'clock on the night above named. Mr Martin was directed to detain the wheat, and that the man now at Southwell should be taken into custody when his present sentence expired. Jackson was admitted to bail. This makes the sixth boatman who has been apprehended within a short time, five of whom are now at Southwell House of Correction.

28 February 9 1854

WORKSOP

FELONY AT RANBY NEAR WORKSOP On Tuesday morning last, Inspector Sanford of Worksop received information that a quantity of malt had been taken from the malt house of Mr Wilkinson of Osberton, which is situate at Ranby. It appears that on the Monday night previously, two boatmen named **John Taylor** and **John Hindley**, having charge of a boat on the canal near Worksop, had stolen about seven quarters of malt. Sandford proceeded to where he expected to find the boat, but not meeting with it, he went further down the canal and met a boat flying along. He at once stopped and searched it, and found in it fourteen bags of malt. On questioning the man in charge of the boat relative thereto, the answers were of so unsatisfactory a character, that he then and there took him together with his companion into custody. It was afterwards ascertained that the malt house had been entered by a false key, and on examining the premises, footprints were discovered which corresponded with the boots which the prisoner had on. On the following day they were taken before a magistrate at Retford and remanded until Sunday.

29 February 16 1854

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

STEALING COAL John Johnson and Thomas Brooksbank were charged, the former with stealing and the latter with receiving a quantity of coal from a boat lying upon the Nottingham Canal, the property of Mr John Wright, coal merchant. Remanded until Monday.

30 February 16 1854

RETFORD

THE RANBY ROBBERY **Taylor**, Otter, Knight and Hindley were brought up again today (15th February), but Mr Wilkinson tendering no evidence against Hindley, he was discharged. It would appear that he had been only acting under the orders of his master (Taylor), and had not been privy to the plot. From the evidence we learn that the robbery had been some time in contemplation, and that on the 6th February the three prisoners met on Clayworth Bridge, when arrangements were made that Taylor should take his boat up the canal as far as a lock known as Bartram's Lock, and where a person of that name resides ; the boat was to be got through the lock before it was fastened up by Bartram for the night, which was done. The horse was put into Bartram's stable, and fastened there. About midnight the prisoners Knight and Otter, and three other Clayworth men, went to the boat and awoke Taylor. They then drew the boat by hand to within about 150 yards of Mr Wilkinson's malt warehouse, which is close to the canal at Ranby, and the five men then brought and put into the boat fourteen sacks of malt. This done, they drew the boat back again to Bartram's Lock, Taylor steering. On leaving Taylor he was instructed not to leave the lock until daylight, and then to take the malt to the canal warehouse at Chesterfield. The object in view in getting the boat through the lock was evidently a scheme by which it was foreseen, in case of detection, they should be able to get Bartram as a witness in their favour ; for the boat being in the lock when he went to bed and when he got up again in the morning, as well as the horse in his stable, would be likely to turn to their advantage. Too much praise cannot be accorded to the police for their exertions in finding out this gang, eight of whom are now in custody, and three others have warrants out against them. We understand that about six months ago some of the party were overheard plotting a robbery on the canal ; this information was communicated to Superintendent Martin, who at once gave information to all parties likely to become victims, and made every necessary preparation for the capture of the perpetrators, with what success the above will prove. We trust soon to see the county rid of such heartless villains, and trust those by whose exertions they have been detected will not go without being well rewarded.

31 March 16 1854

STEALING MALT FROM A KILN AT RANBY Thomas Knight, aged 27, labourer, John Otter, 25, labourer, **John Taylor**, 25, boatman, Martin Herring, 23, labourer and **William Herring**,

boatman, pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging them with stealing seven quarters of malt, value £24, the property of William Wilkinson, at Ranby in the parish of Babworth on the 6th February last. Mr O'Brien conducted the case for the prosecution ; the prisoner Taylor was defended by Mr Barker, and the rest by Mr Adams. The prosecutor is a large maltster at Ranby. On the night of the 6th of February, a large quantity of malt was stolen from his kiln. He gave information to the police, and as a policeman was examining his premises, he detected traces of the malt having been carried in the direction of the canal. He watched in the neighbourhood of the canal, and about seven o'clock the same morning his attention was called to a boat which was passing. He stopped the boat, and found it in charge of the prisoner. He asked the prisoner what he had in it, and he denied that there was anything at all in it. The policeman not being satisfied with Taylor's reply, took off the hatches and examined the boat. He found under the hatches eleven sacks of malt of the description of that stolen, and in another part of the boat three sacks more. Taylor then stated that the barley had been brought to him by some men, who gave him a shilling a sack to convey it to Chesterfield. Taylor, and a boy who was with him, were thereupon taken into custody, and the boy then stated that the barley had been brought to the vessel by the other prisoners. Otter was apprehended on the 10th, and said he was innocent, but Taylor, when in his presence, said he was the man who was concerned in stealing the malt, and the same was said also of Knight. A publican named Dodd swore to five of the prisoners standing together on the afternoon of the 6th. Police-constable Leaper went in search of Martin Herring, and apprehended him on the 7th at his own home. The prisoner had been absent from the house since the committal of the offence, and when he went to his house he had to make a forcible entrance, and ultimately he found the prisoner against the door in the house place. He then wore no whiskers, contrary to his usual custom. When before the magistrates, the prisoners made contradictory statements, and Taylor admitted that evidence was true which the others denied. This being the close of the case for the prosecution, Mr Adams addressed some observations to the Jury in behalf of the prisoners for whom he appeared, urging in the first instance that really some doubt existed even as to the fact that a robbery had been committed, for the substantiation of the suspicion rested solely upon the evidence of the witness who stated that he had left his shovel upright in the malt previous to the robbery, and that on the following morning it was found in a different position, and some distance from the place. The learned counsel thought this circumstance in the range of probability, for owing to the fact of the loose nature of the malt the shovel might have fallen down, and out of so large a quantity of grain it was somewhat difficult to ascertain by the eye only whether any had been taken. The next question for consideration was whether the malt found in the boat of Taylor belonged to the prosecutor, and on this point considerable difficulty existed, as the prosecutor had such extensive dealings in grain. They must next be satisfied that the prisoners were the men who put the malt upon the boat of Taylor, and with reference to this circumstance they had only the evidence of Hindley, who was in such a position with respect to them that it would be almost impossible to recognise them, therefore the evidence in this respect was very incomplete and inconclusive. His Lordship summed up, and the Jury found all the prisoners guilty. A previous conviction was proved against Otter, and the Judge, in passing sentence, said that Taylor had been twice fined for offences as a boatman. He sentenced these two to imprisonment for two years, with hard labour ; the rest were ordered to be imprisoned for eighteen calendar months.

NIGHT POACHING AT SIBTHORPE John Lindley, 35, miller ; **Charles Scott alias Cree**, 27, boatman ; George Rayworth, 20, labourer ; Henry Beck and John Beck, were charged under an indictment with having, on the night of the 21st of October last, entered a close of land in the occupation of John Hall at Sibthorpe for the purpose of taking and destroying game, they being armed with a gun and offensive weapons. Mr Boden opened the case for the prosecution, and called a gamekeeper named Wood, who stated that while out watching on the night of the day named with John Smith, he saw five men picking up some snares in a field belonging to Mr Hall, with two dogs with them, which were beating the field. He knew three of them, Roworth (*sic*) and the Becks, the former of whom had a gun in his possession, and the other prisoners had bludgeons

in their hands. Upon asking what business they had there, Scott swearing said, "Stand back, you ----, or else I will knock your brains out". He then drew back to the gatepost, and all the poachers passed by him, and he could see that Henry Beck had snares in his hand, and the others had smock frocks upon his shoulders, which apparently contained something. Smith stood against the gate, and Scott and Lindley drew up to him, when the former said, "If you touch us, we'll knock your brains out". They then got over the fence against the gatepost, and one of them threatened that if the keepers followed them they would murder them. The witness then went to Sibthorpe to get some assistance, and afterwards started to Newark and gave information to the watchmen. John Smith identified Scott and Lindley. A policeman named John Burford saw the prisoners come in a direction from Mr Hall's field, and about 300 yards from it. He recognised Scott and Roworth. From information he received, Thomas Parks, a nightwatchman at Newark, stationed himself at the bottom of the Balderton Road, one of the inlets into Newark from Sibthorpe. About half past three o'clock he saw Scott and Roworth enter the town in a direction as if they had come from the scene of the poaching. On asking what sort of luck they had had, Scott replied, "Very bad". They had then a brown coloured dog with them, and went in a direction to their own home. John Uffindall stated that he posted himself at another entrance to the town, and saw the two Becks and Lindley pass him. The latter had a dark brindled snap dog with him. They came in a direction from Bowbridge Lane, down which they would have come if they were returning from the prosecutor's field. The Becks went into Water Lane, and Lindley in the direction of Appleton Gate. The watchman Wood went the same morning to the houses of the prisoners, in company with the police officers, and first to that of Scott. This prisoner was unlacing his boots, and in the house was one of the dogs which had been beating in Mr Hall's field. On hearing the charge, he expressed great objection to being taken into custody by the officers, and said that that evening he had been up the Trent with a horse. His boots were wet and dirty. The officers found Roworth standing in the coal place of his house, with his shoes off and, notwithstanding that his boots were wet and dirty, he pleaded that he had not been out of the house that evening at all. At the house of Lindley was found the other dog which was seen in the field, and this prisoner, whose shoes presented the same appearance as the others, asserted that he had not left his house during that night. The prisoners Beck were found in bed ; their shoes were wet and dirty. The Counsel for the defence then addressed the jury in behalf of their clients, the chief plea being that the prisoners had been out fishing, which would account for the condition in which their boots were found. His Lordship summed up, observing with regard to the plea set forth that the wetness of the prisoners' boots might better be accounted for from the fact that they had been walking in a field, the herbage of which was covered with dew. All the prisoners were found guilty. Lindley and Scott had been eight times previously convicted, and were each sentenced to penal servitude for four years ; Roworth had also been imprisoned for an offence relating to the game laws, and was ordered to be kept to hard labour for two years ; the other two were sentenced to be imprisoned each for eighteen months.

32 March 23 1854

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

CHARGE OF FELONY AGAINST A BOATMAN **Joseph Walker** was charged with having stolen a pair of boots and a waistcoat, the property of **Gregory Haskard**. The things were placed in a boat on the 3rd instant, and found on the prisoner a few days afterwards. It transpired however, during the hearing of the case, that it was customary for boatmen to use each others wearing apparel, and as the prosecutor had no reason to believe that the prisoner intended to steal his boots and waistcoat, he was discharged.

33 March 23 1854

MISTERTON – THEFT OF POTATOES Early on Monday morning Police-constable Throsby was on duty in the above village, when he came up with a man of the name of **Stephen Thompson**, a boatman, carrying a bag of potatoes, of which he gave but an unsatisfactory account, saying that he found them near the Trent side. He was conveyed to Retford, and from subsequent enquiries it was

found that he had stolen them. He was taken before H W B Milner Esq, and committed for trial at the sessions. This makes the twelfth boatman now in custody from this neighbourhood.

34 April 13 1854

FIRING A PLANTATION AT BRAMCOTE At the Shire Hall on Saturday last, a boatman named **William Hind** was charged with having, on the 22nd ultimo at Bramcote, set fire to and damaged a quantity of gorse, the property of J Sherwin Esq. The evidence against the defendant was that about six o'clock in the evening of the day in question, a man named Moses Daykin, while passing by the plantation, noticed that it was burning and had apparently only just been lighted. The plantation stands by the side of the Trent, and a boat on which the defendant was employed was about 150 yards from it, and no person was present. Daykin, suspecting that the mischief had been done by the persons in the boat, followed it as far as the top lock, and there charged the prisoner with being the guilty party, but he denied knowing anything of the fact that the plantation had been fired. About a rood and a half was burnt consisting of gorse and 600 or 700 trees, doing damage to the extent of nearly £5. Information of the damage having been given to the police authorities, constable Shaw, accompanied by Inspector Roberts, went to the wharf by which the boat was stopping to make inquiries. Shaw, in giving his evidence, said that he saw the defendant and told him he had come to make inquiries relative to the firing of the plantation, and the defendant denied having any knowledge of it, whereupon the policeman told him that unless he would speak the truth and saw who had committed the damage, proceedings would be taken out against him. In consequence of this, the defendant acknowledged that he himself was the guilty person, but stated that he did it quite unintentionally by emptying the contents of an ashes pan upon it without knowing that it contained any fire. Roberts could not swear that the defendant was the man who made this statement. Mr Patchitt, the justices' clerk, advised that it would not be legal for them to take the statement which the defendant had made in answer to the threat, and as there was no other evidence against him, he was discharged, thus fortunately being freed from a liability of transportation for seven years.

35 May 25 1854

LITTLEBOROUGH

INQUEST At Littleborough on Monday last, an inquest was held before Mr Faulkner, coroner, over the body of **John Clay**, son of John Clay of North Clifton, boatman, aged 13 years. On Saturday 13th May, the deceased and his father were going up the river Trent with a boat. When they got to Martin Mill Rack near Littleborough, they cast anchor and waited for the tide. The deceased was on board with his father, and he requested him to wash up whilst he had a sleep. When the father awoke in about three quarters of an hour, he found that his son was missing. He immediately got assistance and began to drag for him. The body was found about a mile from where the accident happened. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

36 June 22 1854

RETFORD

FATAL ACCIDENT An accident happened to a little boy named Watson, son of a joiner residing on Spittle Hill. The little fellow, with some others, was fishing in the Chesterfield Canal at a spot known as "Whit Sunday Pie Lock" on Monday afternoon. He was crossing over one side to the other when he fell in. No assistance being at hand, it was some time before he was got out. Information was given by another boy named Kippax to Mr Clark, residing near Welham Bridge, who at once went and got him out. Mr Marshall, who with Mrs Marshall happened to be also near at the time, rendered every assistance in endeavouring to restore animation, but in vain.

37 June 22 1854

WORKSOP

PETTY SESSIONS, JUNE 14 Robert Massleton, Herbert Massleton, Samuel Massleton and

William Fletcher were charged on the information of George Beighton, Mr Mappin's keeper, with unlawfully taking fish in the Chesterfield Canal ; two others were included in the charge, but the police had been unable to effect service of summons on them. Mr Clough, in support of the information, called Mr Mappin's keeper and **Henry Richardson**, the lock-keeper at Kilton, to prove the defendants were taking the fish by nets out of the Canal at six o'clock in the morning of the 4th inst, and read the Chesterfield Canal Act, by which all rights of fishing in the Canal were reserved to the Lord of the Manor and owners of adjoining property, and that such right was now vested in Mr Mappin as tenant to the Duke of Newcastle. The defence was that they had been in the habit for years past of taking fish on Whit Monday, and that they had been told they might do so, and did not know they were doing wrong. Under these circumstances, the magistrates fined them 18s 6d costs.

38 June 22 1854

DEATHS At Worksope, on the 16th inst, aged 55, **Ann**, wife of **Mr William Beesting**, waterman.

39 June 29 1854

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM **David Brown**, 19, boatman, having no fixed place of abode ; Julius Kennedy, 15 Narrow Marsh ; and Frederick Dutton, 14, framework knitter, Sherwood, were each brought up for having been found, during the night, sleeping under a haystack in the Meadows, the property of Mr E G Sharpe. They were each ordered to be imprisoned with hard labour for seven days.

40 July 13 1854

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

ALLEGED ROBBERY FROM THE PERSON Eliza Caroline Attenborough, 24 Red Lion Street, was accused of stealing £2 0s 4 ½ d from the person of **Robert White**, boatman, residing at Buckland Hollow, Derbyshire, on Thursday night. The prosecutor had gone into the Ragged Staff tavern in Narrow Marsh and, after partaking of some ale, fell into a partial sleep, having previously assured himself that his money was safe. On rousing up shortly afterwards, he discovered that he had been robbed, and that the prisoner, who had been in the room and had requested him to purchase ale for her, had departed. He gave information to the police, and Sergeant Finch apprehended the prisoner at the Red Lion Tavern about half past one o'clock this morning. She produced a few copper coins, which she alleged was all she had in her possession ; but upon more minutely searching her, the officer found a sovereign, having the appearance of the one which the prosecutor had missed, concealed in a pocket under her dress. The other money, consisting of two half sovereigns, was not found. Remanded.

41 July 20 1854

CROWN COURT

STEALING A WATCH AT CROPWELL BISHOP **Bartholomew Bemrose**, 20, a boatman, was indicted for stealing a silver watch, value £2, the property of Jacob Newton, at Cropwell Bishop on the 26th June. Mr Barker prosecuted ; the prisoner was undefended. It appeared that on the day in question the prisoner had taken the opportunity of stealing the watch from the prosecutor's house during the temporary absence of its inmates. He was known by the prosecutor, but was not intimately connected with him. Upon being apprehended at Grantham a few days afterwards, he admitted taking the watch, but denied any felonious intent, stating it was his intention to return it shortly afterwards. The Jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to two calendar months' imprisonment with hard labour.

42 July 27 1854

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

SAVAGE ASSAULT **George Wheeldon**, 45, boatman, was brought up in the custody of Police-constable Ferrands on a charge of having assaulted James Neale. The prisoner had been captain of

a boat, and had received, on Saturday, the wages due to him and the other boatmen. He neglected, however, to hand the money over to them, in consequence of which they went to his house in Foundry Yard, Leen Side. On learning their errand, he ordered them to leave the house and, with an oath, threatened them violence. He was then seen to hurl a brickbat in the direction where Neale, who was a bystander, stood, and it was afterwards found that he had sustained very serious injuries in the spine, from which he yet suffered, and was unable to attend to give evidence. The missile passed over the boatmen, whom it was evident the defendant intended to strike. He was remanded, but was granted bail until the prosecutor should be able to attend.

43 September 14 1854

SUDDEN DEATH An inquest was held on Sunday last, at the Vine Tavern, Loughborough, to inquire into the circumstances connected with the death of **William Wade**, a young man 23 years of age, who died suddenly on Friday last at the house of his parents on the Nottingham Road. Although death was so recent, decomposition was taking place very fast, and the smell was so offensive that the jurors made their exit as quickly as possible. John Riley was the first person examined, and deposed as follows :- I am a labourer, and have lived with the deceased's parents for about fifteen years. The deceased has been at home since last Whitsuntide, his occupation at that time being a boatman. I and the deceased have been at harvest work together lately at Mr Tomlinson's of Charley Mill. On Thursday morning he complained of being rather unwell, but after he had his breakfast he seemed as cheerful as usual, and we went to work between nine and ten o'clock. About half past two he complained again of the same pain in his inside, but did not say what was the matter with him any further ; he sat down on a sheaf of corn and said he must give over work. He then went and lay down upon his greatcoat against a wall for about three hours, after that he got up and walked home to Loughborough, and I did not see him any more alive. His health had been good until within the last two months, since which he has occasionally complained of a pain in the inside. His appearance had very much altered of late, but he would never consent to have medical advice. He had usually taken some pills on a Sunday morning lately ; he took two last Sunday. I do not know what kind they were or where he obtained them. [By a Juror] I was not aware that the deceased had received any injury in any way. He was a boatman, but had lately been working on the railway. He had not been sick, nor was he purged. [A Juror remarked here that a report was in circulation that deceased had received an injury on the lower part of the abdomen, but witness said he was not aware of anything of the kind]. Ann Wade, mother of the deceased, said : The deceased returned home from Charley Mill about eight o'clock on Thursday night, having walked all the way. He did not appear to be worse than on former occasions. He had a basin of milk for his supper, and he went to bed. I took him his breakfast upstairs in the morning, being accustomed to lie rather long sometimes, and he did not then complain of being ill or worse than usual ; he had not been very well for some time. I do not know what was the matter with him ; he had had some heavy work lately at the new drainage works, and he possibly might have received some injury there. He lay in bed all that morning, and at dinner time I took him some broth which he thought he could eat. A little before four o'clock, when standing at the foot of the stairs, I heard him groan. I went up directly and found him in a dying state, neither moving hand nor foot, and appeared quite unconscious of anything. I sent to the Public Dispensary for medical assistance, and the doctor arrived about ten minutes after four o'clock, but I believe he was then dead. The deceased went to a druggist's shop about six weeks ago for some pills, two of which he took on three occasions. I did not see him take any last Sunday morning. I wished him to have a doctor some time ago, but he would not consent to it, stating that he thought he had got a little cold. I have no idea what was the matter with him to cause his death, nor did he even tell me, being of a very "close" disposition. He had taken herb beer lately to improve his health. Mr A E T Longhurst examined : I am house surgeon at the Loughborough Dispensary. I was called upon to attend the deceased about a quarter past four o'clock on Friday afternoon, and I went in a few minutes afterwards. I found the deceased lying upon his back in bed to all appearances dead. I tried the usual means to restore animation, but without effect. I examined the body externally, which was

pale and the countenance placid. I made inquiries of his friends, but could get no information from them except that they suspected he had been taking some medicine. There was no marked disease or any appearance to indicate that he had sustained any violence or had taken anything of a poisonous nature. The probable cause of death, I should say, is syncope, and that might be brought on by his taking medicine of a mercurial description. The jury being satisfied that no violence had been done to the deceased, returned a verdict that he “Died from natural causes, supposed from syncope”.

44 **October 5 1854**

THE NAVIGATION OF THE TRENT A correspondent at Long Eaton, writing on Monday, says :- In consequence of the long continued drought, the navigation of the river Trent has in many places been considerably impeded. From Wednesday last up to the present time, upwards of 250 boats have grounded upon “Thrumpton shoal”, and such is the amount of gravel in one spot, and the “new weed” (*Anachris Alsinatrum*) in another, that several boats have remained firmly embedded without the slightest chance of being got off, except by lightening them of their cargoes. On Friday and Saturday hundreds of people visited the spot to witness the manoeuvres of the “jolly watermen” who were of course using their utmost endeavours to get off and out of danger. On Saturday, no less than eighty two boats were at one time entirely blocked up one with another, looking like a fleet in miniature, many of them being laden with cheese for Nottingham fair ; the lines, cables, ropes, blocks, &c drawn in such intricacies as to form one complete web of hemp. The shouts of the boatmen, intermingled with those of about two hundred bystanders, the passing of horses over the river, the ducking of men and boys by the horses falling into the gravel holes in the river, and the numerous other serious as well as ludicrous incidents attending this awkward stoppage, formed such a scene as beggars description. A coal barge deeply laden received extensive damage as she lay across the river, by several other boats running into her amidships. Many succeeded in getting off on Saturday night, after trying their utmost with blocks, pulleys, anchors, cadgers, lines and the strong pull of horses and men ; leaving about 30 or 40 of their disconsolate brother captains with their crews to “get up and try again”. It is worthy of remark that during the whole of Saturday afternoon but two boatmen were heard to make use of bad language. The river Trent was never known to contain so much weed and rubbish as at this time, there being a great amount in this part of it of the new weed which is now found so extensively in other rivers and canals.

45 **October 26 1854**

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE QUARTER SESSIONS **Joseph Evans**, a boatman aged 20, against whom there was a former conviction, was found guilty of stealing a £5 note, two sovereigns and one tobacco box, the property of Mr Ward, since deceased, at West Stockwith on the 4th of September. The Court sentenced him to four years penal servitude.

46 **November 16 1854**

COTGRAVE

DEATH FROM DROWNING On Monday last an inquest was held at the Queen Victoria, before Mr Coroner Swann, on the body of **George Hudson**, boatman, aged 42. From the evidence adduced at the inquest, it would appear that the deceased was on Friday last engaged in opening the locks on the Grantham Canal for a boat belonging to **William Oldham** of Crosland Street to pass through. He was considerably in advance of the boat, and upon its arrival at Copley's lock in the parish of Cotgrave, he was missing. The lock, it seems, is in a very unsafe condition, there being no hand rail at the bottom gate, over which boatmen are compelled to cross or trespass on the canal side for a considerable distance. Search was made for the body, and the deceased was some time afterwards found drowned near the lock in question. The inference is that he must have fallen from the gate while crossing and been stunned by his head coming in contact with the edge of the gate, as there was a cut and marks of blood at the back of his ear. The deceased's wife had the week previously destroyed herself with poison, but this circumstance did not appear to depress the

deceased to any considerable extent. The jury found that the deceased was accidentally drowned in the Grantham Canal ; and they were of opinion that the bottom gate of Sandy's or Copley's lock was in an unsafe state, and dangerous to the boatmen who are obliged to walk over it.

47 December 14 1854

RETFORD

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, DECEMBER 12 **Henry Pettinger** of Hayton, boatman, was brought up, charged by the police with being drunk and disorderly at East Retford, and was fined 5s and 10s 4d expenses, or to be placed in the public stocks.

48 December 14 1854

RETFORD

COUNTY COURT Mr Wildman held the usual monthly court in the Council room of the Town Hall on Thursday last. About twenty cases were entered, two of which were before juries and prolonged the business till about ten o'clock at night. The first was **Dunstan v Cooke**. Mr Toynbee of Lincoln appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr Smith of Doncaster for the defendant. The action was brought to recover the sum of £50 as compensation for defendant having caused the plaintiff to be apprehended and imprisoned, without any real and probable cause, on the 26th day of September last. It appeared that defendant, who is a boat owner at Dunham on Trent, on the 27th of May last had permitted plaintiff to use a plank belonging to him (defendant) about 21 feet long, for the purpose of getting to and from a boat load of coals, which plaintiff had to deliver at Dunham. The plank was not seen afterwards, until a person named **Clark**, a boatman who, in September last, wanted to borrow a plank, went for that purpose into plaintiff's yard at Torksey (who is a rope maker, boat builder, &c), and was told by him (plaintiff) he had not one to spare. Upon going out at a certain place, Clark saw what he believed to be the lost plank of defendant, to whose son, in the evening of the same day, he gave information of what he had seen ; whereupon, before plaintiff was out of bed in the morning, defendant and his son, with police officer Mills, went to plaintiff's yard at Torksey and there saw the plank referred to, which they alleged had been sawn off at each end to alter its appearance. Defendant told the plaintiff it was his property, and that if he (plaintiff) would give it up, defendant would let the case be settled. Plaintiff refused to give up the plank, stating it was one he had purchased with others. The policeman thereupon took him to the lock up at Retford, where he remained two nights and one day. When brought before the magistrates, it was ascertained they had no jurisdiction, the transaction having taken place in the county of Lincoln. The case was, therefore, sent to a Lincolnshire bench, but when Dunstan appeared to answer the charge, no one was present to substantiate it, and he was therefore discharged. To show that it was his own and not defendant's property, plaintiff gave evidence of having purchased it with others at Hull. He also produced a witness to whom he had lent the same plank, and who had used it at Drinsey Nook on the 16th of February and 6th of March, two days each time, for the purpose of unloading boat loads of coals there. The witnesses for defendant all gave testimony to show the fact of plaintiff having had the use of the plank, but none save defendant and his son swore positively to its identity. His Honour very carefully summed up, and left it to the jury to assess the damages if they gave a verdict for the plaintiff which, after about twenty minutes consultation, they did, with one farthing damages.

49 December 21 1854

CROPWELL BISHOP

HORRIBLE DEATH IN A BOAT'S CABIN On Sunday last, Mr Coroner Swann held an inquest at the Canal Inn, to inquire into the circumstances attending the death of **Thomas Wood**, aged 14 years. The deceased, whose parent resides in Martin's Yard, Canal Street, was employed by **John Wilson**, boatman of Cropwell Bishop, to accompany his boat. About half past seven o'clock in the evening of Friday last, the deceased left his master's house at Cropwell Bishop and proceeded to the cabin of the boat for the night. About half past three o'clock the following morning, his employer

also went to the boat, and perceived a strong smell of burning. He endeavoured to slide the door of the cabin, and with some difficulty succeeded, and instantly there was a rush of smoke and steam, and a little fire against the deceased's legs, the remaining portion of his body being invisible from the density of the smoke. Wilson obtained assistance, and found that the deceased was most fearfully burnt. His left leg was entirely burnt through and nearly separated from his body ; and his right leg was nearly consumed, besides severe burns upon his face and other parts of his body. The clothes upon which he lay, and which covered him, were consumed. The cause of the accident, in all probability, is that the deceased, contrary to the repeated injunctions of his employer, took a candle with him and stuck it inside the cabin, and that having fallen asleep, the candle fell amongst the clothes. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally suffocated and burnt in the cabin of a boat, where he was sleeping".

50 December 21 1854

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

OFFENCES AGAINST THE GAME LAWS **James Beardsley**, a boatman, was charged with having used a gun for the purpose of taking game without a certificate. Mr Bowley supported the charge, and proved that the defendant shot a hare at Lenton on the 16th inst. Convicted in the penalty of 50s including costs.

51 December 28 1854

LOUGHBOROUGH

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, DECEMBER 23 **John Rossell**, a boatman, was committed to the sessions on a charge of stealing a piece of timber, the property of Mr Wesley, on the 16th inst.

52 February 1 1855

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

CHARGE OF EMBEZZLEMENT William Mills was remanded on a charge of having embezzled £7 belonging to his master, a boatman named **William Inks**.

53 March 8 1855

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ADJOURNED EPIPHANY SESSIONS The following prisoner pleaded guilty :- **William Foster**, 28, boatman, to stealing two iron plates, the property of the Trent Navigation Company, at Holme Pierrepont, on the 19th February. To be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for one calendar month.

54 March 15 1855

CROWN COURT

ARSON **John Burridge**, 40, boatman, was charged with setting fire to a stack of straw and a stack of wheat, the property of George Dewick, at Misterton on the 2nd of January last. Mr O'Brien appeared for the prosecution, and Mr Flowers for the prisoner. The prosecutor is a farmer residing at Misterton, and the prisoner lives in one of his houses in the immediate neighbourhood. The prosecutor missed something belonging to him. The prisoner was suspected, and his house was searched, but nothing was found there to confirm his suspicion. On the night before the stacks were fired, the prisoner was heard to express great resentment at the circumstance, and a determination to serve Mr Dewick out. The prosecutor rose rather earlier than usual on the morning in question in consequence of his expecting a cow to calve ; and on leaving the stable between five and six o'clock, he observed a person coming from the direction of the stacks, who very much resembled the prisoner. In a few minutes afterwards the stacks were discovered to be on fire. Information was given to the police, and the prisoner was apprehended. He had been seen to leave his boat shortly after four o'clock that morning, and not to return again until six o'clock. When in prison he stated to a man of the name of John Pickering, who was there on a charge of being a deserter from the militia, "that the prosecutor blamed him for taking some wheat, but that he had set the fellow a-

blazing for it". Mr Flowers then addressed the jury in defence of the prisoner, contending that there was no evidence sufficiently conclusive to convict the prisoner excepting that given by the last witness, upon which he commented at length. He called a man named **Robert Parr**, a boatman of West Stockwith, who stated that he met the prisoner about five minutes past 5 o'clock, and that shortly afterwards, and when about a mile from the scene of the conflagration, they observed the stacks in a blaze. Mr O'Brien replied, and the jury, after some deliberation, returned a verdict of not guilty.

55 April 12 1855

James Rogers, aged 21, boatman, charged with stealing at West Stockwith on the 3rd of March, half a bushel of oats and some chopped hay, the property of William Wells of that place, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment, one week solitary.

56 April 26 1855

LOUGHBOROUGH

CHILD FOUND DEAD On Saturday an inquest was held at the Albion Inn, Canal Bank, before J Gregory Esq, coroner, to inquire into the circumstances connected with the death of an infant named **Alfred Cayless**, seven weeks old, son of **George Cayless**, boatman, who was found dead in bed on Thursday morning last. Charlotte Hewitt stated that she lived next door to Cayless's. The mother of the deceased was at present confined in an asylum in Lancashire. The father and children had recently come to the house adjoining hers. At that time he had a housekeeper, who soon left on account of ill health. The child was then sent to nurse at Charles Matlock's in the Rushes, but as it cried so very much they could not do with it, and Cayless's eldest daughter (about 12 years of age) brought it home again the same night. The father being out of town at work, witness told the little girl that it would be a great undertaking to have the child at home, but that she would help her, and she had accordingly washed and dressed the deceased daily. The day that it went to be nursed, Mr Matlock took it to the doctor, who gave it a powder, and that was the only medicine it had had, Mr Palmer not having seen it since. The child had always taken its food freely, never having failed in the least. On Thursday night last, witness undressed it as usual, and left the little girl to give it its supper. At that time witness did not perceive any alteration in it except that it appeared to have got a little cold. It slept with the little girl as usual. Witness did not hear any more of it until the next morning, when the little girl came into her house and said the baby had been still all night and had not had any food. Witness told her to go upstairs to see if it took its breath, which she did, and on her return said it was dead. Witness and Mrs Ward, another neighbour, then went upstairs and found the child lying on its left side quite dead. The little girl came to witness about eight o'clock and said the child was alive when she got up, which was about seven. The child was very black on the left side of the face when she first saw it. It had not either Godfrey's cordial or laudanum. **Ann Cayless** (who gave her evidence in a clear straightforward manner) said : I am just turned 12 years of age, and am sister of the deceased. I gave it its supper on Thursday night, consisting of bread and new milk boiled, sweetened with sugar, which it ate as usual. I took it to bed with me about nine o'clock. The child went to sleep and never disturbed me all night. It used to want something about three times in the night, but it did not want anything on that night. I got up about seven o'clock. It was then lying on its left side upon my arm, and when I took it off, it stirred its arm as if it was going to cry. After making the fire, I went to my uncle's (Mr Jennings) and then to Mrs Hewitt's (last witness). I told her how still the baby had been all night, and she wished me to go and see if it stirred. I did do, and found it lying on its side, black in the face, with its eyes open. It had never had any of Godfrey's cordial or anything of the kind. Mr W G Palmer, surgeon, said : I was summoned yesterday morning to attend the deceased. I found it lying on its left side in bed with its night clothes on ; it was warm and could not have been long dead. I made a careful examination of the body externally, but there were no marks of violence of any kind to lead to the supposition that it died through improper treatment. It had not been overlain, there being no compression of the nose or face. The discolouration on the left side was of a usual appearance. I understand the child

had been subject to convulsions, though I never attended it professionally. I have no doubt that death arose from natural causes, most likely in a convulsive fit, probably brought on through not having received its natural nourishment from its mother. The jury were of opinion that the best attention under the circumstances had been paid to the child, and returned a verdict of "Found dead in bed from a convulsive fit".

57 June 7 1855

ENDANGERING THE TRENT BRIDGE At the Borough Police Court yesterday (Wednesday), **Samuel Smith**, living in Poplar, describing himself as a boatman, attended before the Mayor and Mr Close, the sitting magistrates, to answer a complaint preferred by Mr Enfield, town clerk, of having the other day taken a quantity of gravel from the Trent near the Trent Bridge. This proceeding, which tended to materially increase the action of the current and likely to endanger the security of the bridge, the defendant admitted, but said in mitigation of punishment that he removed his men as soon as he knew they were offending. The defendant appeared before the bridge committee on the previous evening and expressed his regret at the occurrence, promising at the same time that the offence should not be repeated. Under these circumstances, the committee, who had previously determined to prosecute persons guilty of a practice so dangerous, relented, and mitigated the punishment to which the defendant had rendered himself liable to a public reprimand at the Police Court from the magisterial bench. The defendant repeated his regret and promise, and was dismissed.

58 June 7 1855

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

WALKING ON A RAILWAY LINE A boatman named **Henry Upton** of Shardlow was charged with having, on the 1st inst, walked upon the line of railway near the station at Beeston. The defendant was in a state of intoxication, and on being taken into the railway station by the master, threatened to do him some injury with his knife, which he drew from his pocket. In default of paying a penalty of £2, including costs, he was ordered to be committed to prison for a month.

59 June 28 1855

NEWARK

BOROUGH POLICE, JUNE 21 **Richard Smith**, a waterman, was charged by Police-constable Burford with being drunk and disorderly on the night of the 9th inst. He was fined 10s, including costs.

60 August 2 1855

NEWARK

SUICIDE BY A MILITIAMAN A militiaman of the name of John Rollison, who had been allowed a few days to spend with his friends in Nottingham, returned from that place on Monday last, not, however, before he had exceeded the time allowed by the commanding officer. This circumstance is supposed to have preyed on his mind, for on meeting with some comrades, he was induced to go into a public house at Farndon, and it is supposed that he indulged too freely in drink, and what made matters worse, his fears were increased by the representations made by his companions of the punishment that awaited him on his return. It appears that he had been subject to fits, and he was next found by a boatman on the bank side, struggling and rolling about, and conveyed by him to one of **Mr Caunt's** boats, where he lay for a short time in a quiet state, but suddenly springing up he threw himself into the water, and we are sorry to say that all endeavours were ineffectual to rescue him from drowning. His body was found on Tuesday evening, and on the following day an inquest was held before William Newton Esq, Coroner, at the Rising Sun, Farndon, when the following verdict was returned, that the "deceased drowned himself while in a state of temporary insanity produced by drunkenness". He was buried on Thursday evening, being attended to the grave by the company to which he belonged ; the drummers and fifers playing, and after the funeral service

military honours were paid him.

61 August 9 1855

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 2 **Thomas Wogdale** of Loughborough, boatman, was brought up on a charge of having assaulted his brother's wife, was allowed to find bail for his appearance in a fortnight, as the complainant forwarded a medical certificate of her inability to attend. Defendant's mother (an old woman) appeared to give security for her son's appearance, and on being asked by the justices if she was willing to be bound for her son, replied in a tone and with a heartiness a mother only could, "Yes, for ever".

62 13 1855

LOUGHBOROUGH

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8 **Thomas Osborne** (captain), **George Bryan** and **James Barber**, boatmen, remanded last week on a charge of stealing two turkeys, the property of Mr Cooper, Sibley Mill, were again brought up. The depositions being taken, Bryan and Barber were committed to the sessions. Osborne who, it appeared, was asleep in the cabin at the time the robbery was committed, was discharged, the magistrates remarking that he would leave the court without the least stain on his character.

63 September 20 1855

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

ILL-TREATING A HORSE **William Needham** and **Robert Newton** were charged with having, a few days ago at Sneinton, ill treated a mare. Police-constable Bostock said that he saw the first named defendant using the mare to draw a boat load of manure down the Trent. The animal was so lame in the near fore foot that it could scarcely set its foot to the ground, and was evidently in great pain. Needham, who was the captain of the boat, was fined 15s, including costs. Newton was the owner of the horse, and was not present when it was used. He was discharged.

64 October 4 1855

ROBBERY FROM THE PERSON IN A PUBLIC HOUSE At the borough police court on Monday, **Frederick Jones**, a man 25 years of age, describing himself as a boatman, living in Narrow Marsh, was placed before the bench on a charge of felony from the person. John Garton, the prosecutor, a man dressed as a labourer, said that on Sunday evening when he was sitting in the Lord Byron public house, Red Lion Street, the prisoner and several other persons entered and placed themselves beside him. In a short time, two of the men held his hands behind him while the prisoner rifled his pockets of their contents, consisting of upwards of £3. The men then ran off. The prosecutor knew the prisoner, and gave a description of his person, on which he was apprehended at his own house on the following morning. The prisoner was then remanded until Wednesday, in order that some inquiry might be made into the matter.

65 October 18 1855

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

SUSPECTED FELONY **Frederick Jones**, 25, boatman, Knob Yard, Red Lion Street, and William Warren, 29, shoemaker, living in the same neighbourhood, were placed before the bench on suspicion of having committed a felony. Mr Superintendent Raynor said that while he was proceeding along Bridlesmith Gate about ten o'clock this forenoon, he saw the prisoners together, and knowing their character he apprehended them. On searching Warren, he found six silver spoons broken into pieces and battered down. He applied for a remand of the prisoners, which was granted.

66 October 25 1855

NEWARK

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SESSIONS

CHARGE OF FELONIOUS ASSAULT **John Shepherd**, boatman, 19, Joseph Fairbank, labourer, 26, Henry Bingham, labourer, 26, **Thomas Bingham**, boatman, 19, **William Bingham**, boatman, 23, and **John Haywood**, boatman, 21, out on bail, surrendered to take their trial on an indictment charging them with having violently assaulted Frederick Heath at Sutton-on-Trent on the 22nd July last. Mr Bristowe appeared for the prosecution ; the prisoners were defended by Mr Morewood. It appeared by the evidence of prosecutor that on the evening of the 22nd July last he was beset by a number of men, knocked down and violently beaten, and dragged along the ground, and had all his clothes torn off with the exception of his neckcloth and stockings. He, however, failed to identify the prisoners as the parties who committed the assault. Other witnesses were examined to substantiate the charge, but the evidence not being sufficiently conclusive to warrant a conviction, the prisoners were acquitted.

67 November 15 1855

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

CHARGE OF FELONY **James Jones**, describing himself as boatman, Knob Yard, Red Lion Street, was remanded until Friday on a charge of having stolen ten pairs of stays from the shop of Mr Watts, Bridlesmith Gate.

68 November 22 1855

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

THE ROBBERY FROM MR WATTS'S SHOP **James Jones**, 16, boatman, Knob Yard, Red Lion Street, was brought up under remand on a charge of having stolen ten pairs of stays from the shop of Mr Watts, Bridlesmith Gate. The prisoner was identified as having been with another boy watching the shop of the prosecutor for some time. The boy not apprehended stole the stays from the counter, and the prisoner joined him after in Peter Gate. He was convicted of having been against the shop for an unlawful purpose, and committed as a rogue and vagabond to the House of Correction for three calendar months.

69 December 13 1855

NOTTINGHAM SPECIAL ASSIZES

ROBBERY AT BECKINGHAM **John Cook**, 30, boatman, and **Joseph Greenwood**, 33, ditto, pleaded not guilty to having stolen ten quarters and one bushel of linseed, value £38, and five sack bags, the property of William Lister Sharp, at Beckingham on the 6th November. The case for the prosecution was conducted by Mr Boden ; the prisoners were defended by Mr Bell. Thomas Hophorne stated that he was foreman to Messrs Furley, timber merchants, living at Gainsborough. He knew the prisoners ; Cooke was the master of a barge plying on the river, and Greenwood was an assistant to him. On the 6th of November they went to his master's premises to ship a load of timber and deals from Gainsborough to Nottingham. The boat was at that time empty, and was an open one. They gave directions for the long pieces of timber to be placed outside, and the short ones in the middle, so as to leave space for the storage of horse corn. It was loaded in accordance with their directions. The hole left would hold about 30 sacks. They finished loading it on the 6th, and moored the boat across the river opposite to his employer's premises, at the Trent Port Wharf. The next morning witness saw Police-constable Leaper pull 15 sacks out of the hole left in the boat. Richard Allcock said he was clerk to the prosecutor. He occupied an oil mill and linseed warehouse on the Nottingham side of the Trent, on the opposite side to Messrs Finley's. On the 6th of November last they had a quantity of linseed in a large room at the top of the warehouse, in which was a door and crane, to let bags down into the river. The oil mill was some distance from the warehouse, and was worked all night, so that linseed could be lowered by the crane without being heard by persons in the mill. In consequence of numerous robberies, he had mixed the linseed with

some wheat, and on the morning of the 7th he found that about ten quarters of linseed had been removed. From information he received, he afterwards, about seven o'clock in the morning, went to the prisoners' boat, Cooke being there at the time. After the sacks had been withdrawn by Leaper, he examined their contents, and found that they consisted of linseed mixed with wheat. He examined the linseed and identified it as corresponding with that belonging to his employer. The sack produced he also knew to belong to Mr Sharp from a mark which he himself made upon it, and which was one of those taken from the boat. Cross-examined : It is not uncommon to have wheat and linseed mixed together ; but he never saw foreign linseed with English wheat amongst it, as was the case in this instance. He did not recollect having ever seen linseed with English seed amongst it. Superintendent Leaper of the Gainsborough police said, on the morning of the 7th November, he went with a search warrant to the prisoners' boat, which was moored against the Trent Port wharf. The two prisoners and a boy were there. He searched the boat and found about 20 sacks of linseed in a hole which had been left by the arrangement of the timber. He charged them both with stealing from Mr Sharpe's mill. Cooke replied, "I bought it, it's mine, but I shan't tell you who I bought it of ; Mr Sharpe cannot swear to it". Greenwood said that he did not know that it was on board ; the boy ran away. On the top of the linseed were four bags of chopped hay, and a cloth over all. Draper Wilson, police-constable of Gainsborough, confirmed the evidence of Leaper. On taking Cooke to the police station, he said it was the first time he had done anything wrong and it should be the last. Mr Superintendent Sarlford of Retford said the prisoners were delivered into his custody on the 8th November. On the following day he charged each man separately with the offence ; Greenwood in reply said the linseed had been on board a week. Cooke observed that he bought the linseed of a man, whose name and residence he knew not. Mr Bell then addressed the jury for the defence, and a verdict of guilty was returned in both cases, and the prisoners were sentenced to 18 calendar months imprisonment with hard labour.

70 January 31 1856

BINGHAM JUSTICE ROOM, JANUARY 24 **William Fairbanks**, captain of a boat on the river Trent, was convicted in the penalty of £5 including costs for concealing the owner's name upon the said vessel, in the liberty of Kneeton in this county.

71 March 6 1856

DEATHS At East Retford on the 1st inst, in the 84th year of his age, **Mr Joseph Warburton**. Deceased was one of the oldest, if not the oldest, servant in the employ of the Chesterfield Canal Company, and was lock-keeper at the lock at East Retford.

72 May 29 1856

SUICIDE BY DROWNING At an early hour on Monday morning last, a basket maker named Merrin, formerly living in Nottingham, committed suicide by throwing himself into the Trent. It appears that about half past five o'clock, an old man accustomed to early rising was sitting against the boat house at the Wilford Ferry, when the unfortunate suicide walked towards him and placed in his hand a piece of paper upon which was written "James Merrin", at the same time requesting that it might be given to the ferry boatman upon his arrival. The old man took no notice of what became of the person after he had left him until he heard a sudden splash in the water, and looking towards the spot whence the sound proceeded, he saw that the man had plunged into the river off the landing stage and was fast being carried away by the current. He immediately proceeded to undress himself, but Merrin had sunk for the last time before the old gentleman was able to render him any assistance. In consequence of the swollen state of the river, the body has not as yet, we believe, been recovered.

73 July 10 1856

MYSTERIOUS CASE OF DROWNING On the 4th instant Mr Coroner Swann held an inquest at the White Swan, Sneinton, on the body of William Woodhouse, the son of a wheelwright of that

name, living in Golden Lane, Poplar. It seems that on the night previously the deceased, who was about eight years old, was missing, and after search had for a considerable time been fruitlessly made for him, the canal at Mr Eyre's wharf, where his father is employed, was dragged, and his body recovered. He had been observed about the yard in the afternoon, but how he got into the water no evidence appeared to prove. A verdict accordingly was recorded.

74 July 10 1856

STEALING IRON At Derbyshire July Sessions on Thursday, **William Fairbank**, 36, boatman, charged with stealing on the 28th May twelve hundredweight of iron, the property of the North Staffordshire Railway Company, at Willington. Mr Boden prosecuted ; prisoner was undefended. Richard Wheeldon, Police-constable, Nottingham, produced a quantity of iron which he had received from John Daley, general dealer, Nottingham. Joseph Jones, a platelayer in the employ of the North Staffordshire Railway Company at Willington Junction, deposed that about six months ago he was putting down rails, and had occasion to cut up a 15 ft rail ; he cut off a piece 5 ft in length, which he placed amongst other old material. On the 19th of June he went to look for the 5 ft piece ; it was missing, and in looking for it, he also missed a quantity of chairs belonging to the company. He afterwards took up the 10 ft piece and found that it corresponded with the 5 ft produced, and the two ends fitting exactly. James Borroughs, also in the employ of the company, knew the shackle produced to belong to his employers ; he had previously seen it amongst the heap of things at Willington. William Bates, foreman porter at Willington junction, kept an account of goods taken from the wharf. On the 28th of May prisoner, the captain of a boat, left the wharf with a cargo of salt for Gainsborough. He knew the shackle produced, having last seen it about the 13th of May. **William Barton** was hired in May by the prisoner to drive a boat from Gainsborough to Nottingham and Lincoln ; he went with a lot of deal to Nottingham, the prisoner being the captain ; when he had discharged the deal he went to Willington for a cargo of salt. When he got there, it was not ready, and he had to wait four or five days ; he left on the 28th of May ; the night before the prisoner and another man were drinking at a public house ; they gave him ale, and made him so drunk that he had to be put to bed in the cabin of the boat ; early next morning he heard a noise as of something heavy being put on board, and then found that a quantity of iron had been brought which was not there on the night of the 27th. John Daley, general dealer, Nottingham, bought the iron of John Bilston, another general dealer, who said that he bought it of the prisoner on the 29th of May, from his boat, giving him £1 4s for it ; he afterwards sold it to Daley for £2 9s, having paid for the horse and cart. Guilty. Nine months' imprisonment.

75 July 10 1856

DEATHS At East Retford on the 4th instant, aged 31, **Mr Chas Cawdell**, boatman, Sutton's Row.

76 July 17 1856

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

A BOATMAN IN DIFFICULTIES **William Barnes**, a boatman, was charged with having, on the 9th instant at Trowel, shot a hare without having a certificate.

A witness named William Daykin said he saw the defendant shoot a hare while standing in his boat. He drew the hare to the boat with a hook, and threw it amongst the coals.

Mr G L Cowley appeared for the defendant, and called a man named **William Minckley**, who belonged to the same boat as the defendant, and who swore that he himself shot the hare.

The Bench convicted the defendant in the mitigated penalty of £3, including costs, observing that they should have mitigated it further had it not been for the disgraceful defence set up in the evidence of Minckley, who they considered had been guilty of a very serious offence, having taken a false oath with a view of serving the defendant ; and if ever he made his appearance in that court again, it would be under very unfavourable circumstances.

77 July 24 1856

CROWN COURT

STEALING FOWLS **James Thornton**, 27, boatman, pleaded not guilty to having stolen five live tame fowls, the property of Samuel Baker, at the extra parochial limits of the Castle of Nottingham, on the 4th of July. The fowls, it appeared, were seen safe on the premises of the prosecutor on the night the robbery occurred, and about 5 o'clock the following morning, Police-constable Weatherbed of the Borough force saw the prisoner at a public house kept by a man named Mark Miller, having in his possession a bundle which, upon examination, was found to contain the stolen property. The prisoner called witnesses to character, one of whom deposed to having known him eighteen years, but afterwards admitted that his knowledge of him was limited to nine. The prisoner, it appeared, had been several times previously in custody, and the learned Judge characterised this witness's testimony as most disgraceful, and observed that instead of coming to give a character, he rather stood in need of one. The prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

78 July 31 1856

DEATH BY DROWNING IN BREWHOUSE YARD On Monday Mr Coroner Swann held an inquest in Brewhouse Yard, on view of the body of a child named **Hannah Davis**, aged seven years, daughter of **John Davies**, boatman, who, having ventured into the bath yard of the penny swimming baths "to get a little flower for her sister", had, on reaching for a weed growing in the water, fallen in and sunk to the bottom. A little girl who was present raised the alarm, and the child's father and another person arrived upon the spot, but before being recovered from the weeds and mud in the bath, which is five feet deep, she had been 20 minutes under water and life was extinct. Verdict : Accidental death.

79 September 4 1856

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

SNEINTON : TRENT NAVIGATION OFFENCE **Francis Wolfe** was charged by Mr Hopkin, agent for the Trent Navigation Company, with navigating his boat on the canal in the parish of Sneinton without having his name painted legibly on both sides of the boat, in accordance with the bye laws of the company.

The defendant, who was in the manure trade, said that boats employed in that business were liable to have the names defaced more easily than other boats ; and when this offence was committed he was just going to have his name renewed on his boat, which he was obliged to do every four or five months.

He pleaded guilty, and was convicted in the penalty of £5 including costs, the magistrates recommending the company to mitigate the penalty in this case to 20s including costs.

80 September 11 1856

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

DESTITUTE **Thomas Corah**, 14, labourer, formerly boatman on the river, was brought up by Police-constable Muxlow, having been found by him at three o'clock on Sunday morning in St John's Street, destitute. It raining heavily, the constable took him to the watch house.

The boy said he could not get any work. Nothing was known against his character.

The magistrates seemed pleased with his appearance and with the account he gave of himself, and ordered him to be taken to the workhouse.

81 October 9 1856

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

RADFORD : SUSPECTED THEFT George Gilbert was charged by **Samuel Prince**, a boatman in the employment of Mr Sims of Derby, with having stolen a waistcoat from him, but the magistrates found that the prisoner had not taken the waistcoat with any felonious intention, having left a coat,

shirt and trousers in its place, and therefore discharged him.

82 October 16 1856

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

SUSPECTED THEFT **Ann Marlow**, aged 30, a married woman residing in Red Lion Street, wife of **Francis Marlow**, a boatman who resides in London, and from whom she has been living separately for two years, was brought up, apprehended by Police-constable Richard Caunt that morning at half past seven o'clock in the Narrow Marsh, charged by **William Dunhill**, boatman, residing at Farndon near Newark, with having robbed him during the night in No 33 Lodging House, Narrow Marsh, of £4 15s, consisting of eight half sovereigns and 15s in silver.

The complainant Dunhill said he took the prisoner to the house and gave her 2s 6d, and during the night his money, amounting as stated, was taken from the pocket of his trousers, which he put under the pillow of the bed the prisoner and he occupied – no one else being in the room.

The constable said the woman denied the theft when apprehended, and that she had only 2s 7 ½ d on her person when searched. The complainant, he said, was perfectly sober.

There being no corroborative evidence, the magistrates said that although there could be very little doubt that the prisoner had stolen the money, there was not evidence enough of the theft to warrant a conviction, and discharged her, observing to the complainant that by the loss of his money he had been served quite right for consorting with such a person, and advised him to choose his companions better for the future.

83 November 20 1856

NOTTINGHAM COUNTY COURT **Macdonald, draper v Benjamin Low**, boatman : claim £1 8s, balance of an account for drapery goods. Payment ordered by 4s per month.

84 November 20 1856

NEWARK

COUNTY SESSIONS ROOM, NOVEMBER 19 **Thomas Wright** of Sutton-on-Trent, boatman, was charged by Mr William Wells of Holme with damaging a small boat, his property, by steering a coal barge, of which defendant was the captain, against it. Ordered to pay 5s damages and 16s 6d costs.

85 November 27 1856

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

MURDEROUS ASSAULT **John Nelson Cowley**, a tailor living in Poplar – a pale faced, dwarfish and hump backed fellow with a little hair on his upper lip – was charged with having committed the most violent assault upon a **Mrs Elizabeth Hayes**, wife of a waterman, who lives in the same locality. The complainant, whose head was bandaged up, and who was evidently in a very weak state, said that about ten o'clock that morning she went into Cowley's house to ask a girl there whether there was any work for her to bring – as they brought each other work – when she found that Cowley and his wife were having some words. He said to his wife that he would go upstairs and break her boxes open, and his wife said to him, “Don't do so, they are my mother's”. Complainant then said to him, “John, don't be so stupid ; they are Mrs Webb's boxes”. Defendant instantly took up a heavy hammer which was near him, and struck complainant a violent blow with it on her head. She fell insensible and covered with blood. A policeman was sent for, the defendant was given into custody, and complainant was taken to the Dispensary. Cowley being asked what he had to say to the charge, replied, with the greatest coolness, “She insulted me first. I confess I struck her with the hammer when I was in a passion, but then she interfered with me, when she had no business. My concerns did not concern her at all”. Mr Buckle, the Dispensary surgeon, said the blow was a very severe one, but he did not apprehend any danger. The magistrates, observing that it was a most fortunate thing that the result had not been more serious, committed the little ruffian to prison for three months with hard labour, and finding that the complainant's circumstances were

not very good, directed that 5s should be given to her out of the fund appropriated to such objects.

86 December 4 1856

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH On Tuesday afternoon last, an inquest was held at Mr W Stowe's, the Duke of Wellington in Mill Gate, before Robert Griffin Esq, on the body of **Sarah Simpson**, a little girl about six years old, who died on Saturday morning from her clothes taking fire the previous day. The parents of the deceased reside in Mill Gate, and the father is a boatman. Mrs E Barnsdall said she was passing the door of Simpson's house on Friday afternoon about four o'clock, when she heard an unusual noise, and on looking in she saw a child enveloped in flames. The child is since dead. A little boy was with it when she went in. She tried to extinguish the flames by getting it down on the ground. She remained there until a man came. Two women looked in at the door, and then ran away screaming. She left the child with the man. There was a very large fire in the room, and there was no protection put up against it, nor was there any water or piece of carpet to make use of to put out the flames. Jane Palethorpe, an opposite neighbour, said the mother came over to her that afternoon, and in about five minutes she heard screams. She ran out and met last witness, who told her a child was on fire and she could not put it out. She went into the house and wrapped the child up, when a gentleman came in, and taking off his greatcoat, put it round deceased and extinguished the flames. The child was not so much burnt as she expected, but it died next morning about 10 o'clock. Dr Morton attended it. The child told her in the night that it happened through trying to take the kettle off the fire. **Mary Simpson**, the mother, was then examined, when she denied leaving the child so long. The Coroner, however, seriously cautioned her against the great danger of leaving young children alone where there was a fire kept quite unguarded, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death". The gentleman who so humanely and promptly took off his coat and wrapped the poor child in it, was Mr Milner, station master at the Midland Railway.

87 December 11 1856

LINCOLNSHIRE WINTER ASSIZES **William Jones**, 23, boatman, was indicted for unlawfully and maliciously cutting and wounding Henry Arrond, at Epworth, on the 14th of November last. The prosecutor was walking with a woman at the Epworth Statutes, when the prisoner came up and stabbed him. He was found guilty, and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.

88 December 25 1856

A DEAF AND DUMB WITNESS At Warwick, John Smith, aged 25, described as a striker, was indicted for a robbery with violence on the night of the 14th of October. The prosecutor in this case was deaf and dumb, and his evidence was given by means of an interpreter, a boatman, who had worked with him all his life, and who stated that he had two brothers similarly afflicted. The communication between them appeared to be made principally by pantomimic gestures, but aided by a very rapid use of the finger letters ; and, from the statement of the prosecutor thus elicited, it appeared that he had been enticed into a house of ill fame in Birmingham, and had been detained there against his will for about half an hour, when he was allowed to depart, but two women followed him and kept hold of him. When he had got a short distance, a man, whom he had sworn to be the prisoner, darted out upon him, seized him by the throat, and dragged him up an entry, where he was held down by the women while the man robbed him of his watch and purse, containing £3 10s. Two policemen came up, and the prosecutor having pointed out the house, one of them saw the prisoner getting over a wall at the back of it, and he was secured. Mr Kennedy, the prisoner's counsel, urged the danger of relying upon the evidence of the prosecutor, given only by signs, which were so liable to be mistaken ; but the jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to eight years' penal servitude.

89 January 1 1857

SUSPECTED CHILD MURDER An inquest was held at the Trent Navigation Inn on Friday last before C Swann Esq, on the body of a female child unknown. **Reuben Mallet**, boatman, Taylor's

Yard, Nottingham, was the first witness examined. Between nine and ten o'clock on Christmas morning he was waiting about the Trent Lock on the look out for a job, when his attention was attracted by a bundle which he saw floating in the lock. Witness called out to **William Foster**, a boatman, who was passing at the time, and the bundle was pulled out of the water and placed on the lock side. Foster walked away and refused to examine it. Witness opened the bundle, which was a cloth sewed up, and found it contained the body of a child in an advanced state of decomposition. Witness did not know whose child the deceased was, nor how it came into the water. He noticed that the child had hair on its head, and also that it had fingernails. Mr Unthank, surgeon of Nottingham, made a *post mortem* examination of the body, and found the skull bruised. This however might have been caused by a boat in passing. Witness did not observe any other marks of violence upon the body, nor any signs of strangulation. Upon examining the lungs, witness did not find them much congested. They were crepitant and floated when put into water. There was very little blood in the body. Witness had no doubt but that the child had been born alive, and from the fact that the umbilical cord was cut much longer than normal, as well as from the bloodless state of the body, he was of opinion that the child bled to death, and was then thrown into the water, where in all probability it had been for a fortnight at least. The following verdict was returned by the jury :- "That the deceased was found dead in the canal – that she was born alive, and that no sufficient evidence appears to prove how she came to her death or by whom put into the canal".

90 March 5 1857

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

SAVAGE ASSAULT IN A PUBLIC HOUSE A young man named Frederick Jones was charged with having, on Thursday the 19th ult, assaulted Mary Hesketh in the Ten Bells public house, Narrow Marsh. From the evidence it appeared that the complainant went into the Ten Bells about 11 o'clock at night, and a dispute arose between her and a notorious woman called "Ginger". They came to blows, and the prisoner took the part of "Ginger", brutally ill-treating the complainant, whilst a boatman stood with his back to the door to prevent anyone from coming in. The landlady's son was sitting in the room at the time, but did not interfere. The prisoner had nothing to say in answer to the charge, and his witnesses, he said, were not present. The magistrates convicted him of the offence, and expressed their opinion that it was altogether a most disgraceful case. They thought the prisoner deserved all the law allowed, and accordingly inflicted a penalty of £5. In default of payment, the man was sent to prison for two months with hard labour. The same person is also suspected of having stolen a quantity of cotton from Messrs Ward and Cope's factory in Broad Marsh.

91 April 9 1857

LOUGHBOROUGH

TOWN HALL, APRIL 4 William Alvey f w k, Thomas Wale, baker, **Frank Orton**, boatman, and W Wall, labourer, were severally remanded (on bail) on a charge of rioting, by throwing stones at the Bull's Head windows &c on the evening of the election on Friday.

92 April 23 1857

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

STEALING STRAPS **Joseph Millard**, 16, a boat boy from Gloucester, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing four hame straps, the property of Peter Clew. It appeared that the boy had been brought down from Gloucester by a boatman named **Samuel Bruff**, but in consequence of the boy's appropriating a knife, the boatmen turned him off, and he was left destitute in Nottingham. Last night he slept in a stable at the Navigation Inn, and took the four straps from there. He was detected in the act of selling one of them. The magistrates remanded the prisoner for a day.

93 May 14 1857

MEETING OF NAVIGATION COMMISSIONERS The annual meeting of the Trent Navigation

Commissioners took place on Thursday morning last in the Town Hall, where there was a large attendance of commissioners. The Mayor (G H Riddle Esq) occupied the chair. The usual business was gone through, and a new commissioner appointed in place of one recently deceased. The funds were in an encouraging state, and two donations of £50 each were almost unanimously voted for, after a warm opposition from Mr T Oldham and two or three others. £50 was voted for the benefit of the new schools in course of erection by the committee of Christ Church, and the same amount was given to the Newark Hospital, the funds of which have until recently been in a low condition. These donations were opposed on the ground that the commissioners had not legally the power to apply the funds to any other than purposes connected with the navigation. On the other hand it was maintained that the children of boatmen and others engaged directly or indirectly with the navigation would receive instruction in the new schools, and of course the hospital is open for the reception of those who may need the assistance which can be given there better than at their private homes. It will be remembered that in 1851 a special act of Parliament was made to empower the Navigation Commissioners to present the Town Improvements Commissioners with £3000 for the improvement of the town, and it may be considered matter for congratulation that two such admirable institutions as the Hospital and the new Schools have in their turn received such a handsome donation from the same source without an act of Parliament.

94 May 21 1857

SUDDEN DEATH AT BURTON JOYCE On Wednesday se'nnight a person named **James Brewster**, 53 years of age, a boatman, living at Mill Gate, Newark, left his boat at Burton Wharf and, as it is supposed, intended to walk through Burton and join the boat again at Stoke Lane end. About a quarter past seven in the evening, he was seen going through Burton at a swift walking pace, and just as he got past Mrs Hannah Seaton's house he suddenly fell forwards on his face and lay quite still. Mrs Seaton and her daughter ran out to him, and by the assistance of another person, raised him up. Mrs Seaton bathed his face and head with warm water, but after gasping twice the unfortunate man expired. On the following day an inquest was held on the body at the Cross Keys, Burton Joyce, before Mr Coroner Swann, when it was stated in evidence that the deceased had never been known to have a day's illness, but had been heard to complain of a difficulty in breathing. He had been a hard drinker, and the doctor had told his friends that they might expect him to die suddenly at some time or other. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased had dropped down dead from natural causes by the sudden visitation of God.

95 May 28 1857

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

ATTEMPTED POCKET PICKING Thomas Smith, 22, a smith, was charged with attempting to pick the pocket of a boatman named **Charles Hallam**. Last night a little after 12 o'clock, Hallam was standing talking to a female in Red Lion Street. The prisoner offered him the shelter of his umbrella, and the prosecutor declined the civility. The prisoner then thrust his hand into the prosecutor's pocket and declared that if he had got anything he would have it. Both he and Hallam were intoxicated. The prisoner did not find anything, and went up an entry, and the prosecutor meeting Police-constable Millwood told him of the occurrence, and found the man and gave him into custody. Superintendent Raynor spoke very unfavourably of the prisoner's character, and the magistrates committed him to prison for two months with hard labour.

96 June 18 1857

NEWARK

DRUNKEN ROW On Monday night, two watermen who had been drinking together at the Duke of Wellington public house, Millgate, commenced quarrelling between ten and eleven o'clock about something connected with their work. A neighbour named Nightingale, of Webster's Yard, went up and tried to stop them from fighting. Unfortunately his foot slipped and he fell with the men upon him. The bone of his right ankle was put out, and the splinter bone broken. On Tuesday morning

the ankle was set by Dr Anders, and the poor fellow is in a fair way for speedy recovery.

97 June 25 1857

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE IN THE TRENT An inquest was held by Mr Coroner Swann on Friday last at the Punch Bowl Tavern, Wilford, on the body of a young man named Robert Fell Inman, who came by his death under very melancholy circumstances on the morning of that day. The principal witness was Mr Samuel Singleton, Bridlesmith Gate, book keeper, whose evidence was to the following effect. The deceased was the son of Mr Inman of Satterwaite, Lincolnshire, farmer and land owner, and was 21 years of age. He was employed by his father to assist him in the farm. On the previous Friday he came to Nottingham on a visit to Mr Ebenezer Singleton, brother to witness, who lodges at Mr Harrison's, Bridlesmith Gate. He was apparently in a very depressed state of mind. He had been anxious that his father should do something in the way of setting him up in business, which the latter was not willing to do, and this was the cause of his leaving home. He told witness that he did not intend to go back in a hurry, and that he did not know how long he should stay in Nottingham. On Friday morning last he joined in family worship, and took his breakfast as well as usual. After breakfast he proposed to witness to take a walk, and as they had been before to Clifton Grove, witness proposed that they should walk along the river side, to which the deceased assented. They accordingly crossed the ferry, and walked part of the way to the Punch Bowl Tavern, when deceased became tired and wished to go back. They accordingly began to return. He seemed cheerful at that time, and was remarking how much earlier the hay making began here than in Lincolnshire. While witness stood looking at some mowers, the deceased began to walk more quickly in the direction of the boat, and witness, as he saw that the boatman was on the other side, followed at a slower pace. When deceased reached the riverside he was 20 or 30 yards in advance of witness, and as the ground there is lower than the field, he was then out of his sight. When Mr Singleton reached the water side, the deceased was gone, and his cap was floating 10 or 15 yards below the boat. The ferryman told him that a man was drowned. Drags were procured, and the body was sought for, but was not found until after witness had left the place. He never supposed that deceased would commit suicide, and had gone out with him on the present occasion not to take care of him, but merely as a companion of his walk. Deceased talked rationally during the walk. He had no doubt that he had deliberately committed suicide. He was a nervous excitable young man, alternately cheerful and gloomy, and was greatly altered at this time compared with Christmas last, when witness was with him at Satterwaite. He was then generally cheerful, but now often very depressed – read the Bible very much, and was unwilling to enter into conversation. He was restless at night, and would pace about the room instead of getting into bed. He had told witness seriously the day before that he believed the day of judgement was come. He was paying his addresses to witness's sister ; they were excellent friends, and he was not labouring under any feelings of disappointment or jealousy on her account. Witness knew of no cause for his destroying himself, except the disappointment he felt because his father would not establish him in business. Deceased mentioned that he told his father when he left him that if he had done him any wrong, he hoped he would forgive him ; and trusted, if they did not meet again on earth, they would in heaven. Thomas Searcy of Coal Court, Parliament Street, said that he was fishing in the Trent about eleven o'clock, when he saw the deceased come down to the river side and walk deliberately into the water. When he was about breast high witness called to the ferryman, who immediately pulled the boat as near as possible and made a catch at him. He caught hold of him somewhere about the breast, but deceased wrenched himself away and went further in. He soon got into deep water, and immediately sank. Witness stripped himself in order to go after him if he should come up again, but he never did. He saw no more of him until he was dragged out of the river quite dead shortly before three o'clock in the afternoon. He was found about 100 yards below the place where he sank. **Robert North**, ferryman of Wilford boat, stated that when his attention was called to deceased by the last witness, he called out, "For God's sake, go back! You will be drowned", but he took no notice. He then pulled the boat and caught hold of him by the breast, when deceased pulled himself away, and kept sinking himself down until witness was nearly pulled over. He got free and went

into deep water ; he there struck out once or twice, and then placed his head between his hands and sank. While witness had hold of him, he said, "Let me go ; I know what I am doing". He had not weighted himself with stone, as was reported. Verdict : "That the deceased drowned himself, he being at the time in an unsound state of mind".

98 August 6 1857

DEATHS At Newark on the 31st, aged 4 years, **George**, son of **Mr Henry Pride**, waterman, Parliament Street.

99 August 27 1857

INQUEST On Monday last, an inquest was held at Mrs Turner's, the Ranby Wharf Inn in the parish of Balworth, on view of the body of **George Burley**, aged eight years, son of **George Burley**, boatman of West Stockwith, who on the previous day had accidentally fallen from his father's back into the Chesterfield Canal when, before he could be rescued, he was accidentally drowned. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with these facts.

100 September 24 1857

LOUGHBOROUGH COUNTY COURT

J JENNINGS v **CHARLES JARROW** £2 7s was claimed for rent. The defendant was a boatman, and although he had promised to pay 6s a month, he had not paid a farthing, but had "moonshined", leaving the plaintiff the only alternative of summoning him for the amount due. His Honour, after facetiously remarking that boatmen were accustomed to "moonlight trips", gave judgement for the amount to be paid by 6s a month.

WEATHERCOCK : **CAYLESS v GEORGE COOKE** The plaintiff sued for the value of a weathercock or vane, taken from the boat with which he had travelled, and which he had since seen performing its airy duties upon the mast of a boat of which the defendant was captain. The defendant said the vane had been given to him by his master, to whom he had before referred the plaintiff. Non suited.

101 October 1 1857

NEWARK

BOROUGH POLICE COURT, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28 **William White**, boatman, pleaded guilty to having used profane and abusive language in Northgate on the 21st ult. Discharged on paying 6s 6d expenses.

102 October 15 1857

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY IN LONDON On Friday morning were discovered at Waterloo Bridge the mangled and mutilated remains of the body of a gentleman who had evidently been most barbarously murdered, and whose body had afterwards been completely made "a thing of shreds and patches". The atrocity, as will be seen from the following details, even exceeds in its barbarity that of James Greenacre or Daniel Good, of whom, it will be recollected, both, after murdering their victims, cut up their bodies, and the former distributed the sections in different parts of the metropolis and the latter burnt the remains. In the case which we are about to detail, it would appear that the murder must have taken place in, or the body been afterwards removed to, some private place, where it was subsequently cut up and hacked to pieces. From the examination of the garments, there is no doubt that the unfortunate deceased moved in the upper class of society.

The discovery of this murder adds another illustration to the already numerous cases on record, that notwithstanding the great care and the evident attempt to conceal the fact which the perpetrators of this diabolical deed had taken, murder will out.

Two youths were in a boat rowing on the river Thames on Friday morning between 5 and 6 o'clock, and as they were about to pass through one of the arches, their attention was attracted by seeing a

bundle on one of the buttresses. They pulled up as soon as possible in order to seize what they considered a prize. When abreast of the buttress, they discovered that the bundle which they had noticed was a large travelling or carpet bag ; with the assistance of their oars they succeeded in getting this bag into the boat. They then discovered that it was tightly corded, and that in addition there were some 10 or 12 yards of string, which has led the police to the belief that the cord had been used for the purpose of quietly dropping the bag into the river without making any splash or sound, which would at once have called the attention of the officers of the Thames Police Station, which is moored off the spot, or of the numerous watermen who ply off the stairs on either side of the bridge. But instead of the bag going into the water and floating with the tide to some other spot, from the circumstance of the cord not being sufficiently long to swing it into the water, it was lodged upon the buttress where it was found. When the boys got the bag into the boat, upon an examination they found it was exceedingly heavy, and as the tide was running very strong at the time, all their energies were required to manage the boat. They therefore decided to take the bag home before they opened it. Upon arriving at their residence, they communicated the fact of the finding of the bag to an elder brother, who at once proceeded to examine the contents. On cutting the string and opening the bag, a horrible spectacle presented itself to their view – portions of a human body, bones from which the flesh had been rudely torn, and garments saturated with blood. Immediately on finding this to be the case, the elder brother, accompanied by the two youths, repaired to Bow Street Station, taking with them the bag. Mr Superintendent Durkin deemed it necessary to send for Mr Paynter, the divisional surgeon, of Catherine Street, Strand, who at once went to the station, and an examination of the bag and its contents then took place.

The result of the examination, which was most carefully and minutely made by Mr Paynter in the presence of Mr Durkin, showed the bag to contain a great number of the different portions of a human body of the male sex. The parts found consisted of the legs, arms, nearly the whole of the spinal column, the buttock joints and the shoulder joints. The whole of the head, with several cervicals of the vertebrae, the hands and the feet were absent. With regard to the condition of the remains, it was found that the greater portion of the flesh had been very roughly removed. There were, however, some portions of the muscles remaining on the limbs ; these were impregnated with a saline matter of a gritty nature, as if the body had been placed in brine, or salted ; and it is the opinion of the surgeon and police that such a course had been adopted in order to prevent any smell which might arise from decomposition before the diabolical arrangements had been concluded for the disposal of the body. There were in all about 20 pieces, the large bones of the legs and arms having been rudely sawn into pieces, the former having been divided near the joints of the knees and thighs, and one of the knees had been torn asunder, portions of the muscular flesh and integuments remaining on different places of the bone. It would appear that the brine or salt had not penetrated through the entire body, the sockets of the hip joints having on them some amount of flesh which had become decomposed. This one fact leads the surgeon to surmise that the murder had been perpetrated some days, but upon this point no certainty prevails, in consequence of the preparation used having tended to preserve the other portions of the flesh remaining on the bones. From the absence of the head it is impossible to guess even at the age of the unfortunate man, but from the appearance of the bones of the limbs, Mr Paynter is of opinion that the deceased was a full sized robust man.

In the bag was also found an overcoat made of a brown mixture, the sleeves lined with red silk, front fly faced with black silk, and the tails with black alpaca. It contained two pockets behind, and one breast pocket. This coat, which was made of a very fine material such as a person in a good position in life would wear, was literally cut in two up the back, and contained several holes in front about the left breast and lower part, evidently made with some sharp instrument, and was much bloodstained. There was also a single breasted black cloth frock coat made of good material, lined with black alpaca, and having a cloth button loop attached, with a breast pocket outside. This coat was also in two pieces, cut up the back, saturated with blood, and having holes in it about the left breast and skirts corresponding exactly in number and size with those in the overcoat. There was also a double breasted black cloth vest, with buckle strap behind, being like the two preceding

garments cut up the back and in two pieces. The waistcoat also had holes in the front by the left breast, similar to those in the coats. A pair of trousers was also found. They were made of rough Oxford mixture or tweed, with small yellow waistband and metal buttons. These also were cut up the back, saturated with blood, and had several holes about the abdomen. Two shirts were also found in the bag, one of which was made from fine long cloth with linen front, wristbands and collar – the front being plaited in small plaits, stitched up, and having two very small white bone buttons. The other was an undershirt of merino, with covered buttons. Both these articles were soaked with blood, and had corresponding holes in front. They were likewise cut completely up the back. There was also a pair of elastic lawn drawers, with one metal and one bone button on the waistband. These were cut, and had holes in them the same as the trousers, and were saturated with blood. There was only one sock in the bag, and that was a thick white cotton one. The examination by the surgeon being concluded, Mr Superintendent Durkin selected some of his most active officers to investigate the case, with a view, if possible, to unravel the mysterious circumstances by which it is surrounded. We may mention that one point appears to be satisfactorily established – that the bag was deposited in the place where it was discovered by a female, for it has been ascertained that a rather elderly woman passed through the foot passengers' tollgate about twelve o'clock on Thursday night. The money taker on duty at that time remembers that such a person came up with a large carpet bag, which appeared to be very weighty, and owing to the narrowness of the turnstile she was unable to pass through with it. The money taker accordingly lifted it over for her and he asserted, on hearing of the discovery, that he took particular notice of the bag, as it had a flower worked in the centre of the material of which it was made. He has been shown the bag in which the remains were found, and expresses his ability to swear that it is the one which he saw in the woman's hand, and which he lifted over the turnstile for her on Thursday night. At that time there was no cord attached to it, so it would appear that the woman must have fastened the cord to it as she passed along the bridge, and have lowered it on to the buttresses from one of the recesses of the bridge. The police are making every exertion to discover this woman, and we trust that before long she will be in the hands of justice.

On Friday night the police authorities were put in possession of a description of her. She passed on to the bridge from the Middlesex side and, besides the carpet bag, she carried a brown paper parcel of somewhat large dimensions. That parcel is now supposed to have contained the head and other parts of the body which are missing, and it is believed that the woman lowered the parcel into the water, and that it floated away with the tide.

FURTHER PARTICULARS The intense sensation which was created many years ago by the first discovery of Greenacre's crime has even been surpassed by the painful feeling which the discovery of the mutilated remains at Waterloo Bridge has raised in the public mind. The mystery which envelops the whole affair – the certainty which now exists that an elderly woman must have borne a principal share in the deed, and that with her, probably, as many as three or four others were partakers in the awful crime, render it a subject of most painful interest.

The police base the hopes of their detection – first on the chance of the clothes being recognised ; secondly, on the ownership of the carpet bag being traced ; and thirdly, upon finding the cabman who drove the woman with her ghastly load to the neighbourhood of Waterloo Bridge on Thursday night. There is not the slightest possibility of recognising the deceased by the remains which are in the hands of the police. In fact these are nothing more than a pile of bones, on which the muscles and large tendons hang in ragged tatters ; all the flesh and skin, except a small portion of the breast and under the armpit, having been completely hacked away. Both the thigh, leg and back bones have been sawn asunder, in order, doubtless, to pack them into a small compass in the vessel of brine, in which they have evidently remained from two to three weeks. From these relics of humanity, therefore, no clue as to who the deceased was can be hoped and, if the awful crime be ever brought home to the guilty persons, it will be as we have said – by means of the clothes, the carpet bag and the cabman. Experienced tailors, who have been brought to examine the clothes, express a decided opinion that they are of foreign make. From the number of persons who examined them at Bow Street Police Station on Saturday, anxiously seeking for some trace of

missing friends or relatives, it would seem that mysterious disappearances must be of very frequent occurrence in this metropolis. No less than eight or nine gentlemen went on Saturday and yesterday to the station, each of whom was searching for some clue to the discovery of persons who, within the last month, without any known reason, have disappeared and never since been heard of. No one, however, recognised the clothes which were found with the remains.

A minute examination of the dress and the condition in which it is at present seems to throw at least the manner in which the murder was committed. There are marks of three stabs in the back, between the shoulders, three in the abdomen, and no less than seven exactly over the region of the heart. All these are clean cuts, showing that they must have been inflicted with a double edged knife, about the thickness of a crown piece in the centre – a poinard bladed weapon similar to those called Spanish knives. The waistcoat is not pierced, so that it must have been unbuttoned at the time the murder was committed. The trousers also must have been partly undone, as they are only punctured in one spot, though the shirt shows marks of three stabs having been inflicted. If any conclusion can be founded upon these appearances, they would certainly lead to the belief that the deceased must have first been stabbed from behind, and that then a desperate struggle ensued, for the other wounds in the back and abdomen are wide apart, as if the assailant struck when and where he could. As the deceased became weaker and offered less resistance, the finishing wounds in the heart appear to have been given with ferocious rapidity. They almost all lie within the circle of a crown piece, and must therefore have been struck as rapidly as the blade could rise and fall. The back of the greatcoat is marked with white, as if the murdered man had struggled hard with his back against a white or lightly papered wall. After the assassination had been effected, it is supposed that the body must have been left as it fell upon its face for 12 or 24 hours, as the blood has completely saturated all the front parts of the dress. The coats, waistcoat, shirt and trousers also are all split down the back in two halves, and the sleeves of the coat ripped open, which leads to the supposition that the body must have become perfectly rigid and in a contorted and unnatural position before any attempt was made to remove the dress.

The hopes which exist of the carpet bag being traced are founded upon the fact of its being a comparatively new and very peculiar one, with the trademark of a shopkeeper, a “4s 8d” in ink figures on the handle. The bag itself, though nearly new, is extremely old fashioned with regard to form, being nearly three feet deep and two wide ; in fact, its great size and peculiar appearance would place its identification by those who had once seen it beyond the possibility of doubt. That this bag containing the remains was the one which was carried on to the bridge by an elderly woman on Thursday night is distinctly established by the statement of Etherington, the toll taker. Etherington was himself formerly a constable in the A division, and remarkable for his shrewdness and caution, and this fact, coupled with the peculiar circumstances which he mentions, apparently place the accuracy of his testimony beyond a doubt. He states that the woman came from the Middlesex side of the water, and paid the toll at the western toll gate. He took the toll, and saw that she had with her a brown paper parcel tied with cord ; it was long, bulky and apparently heavy. She had also the carpet bag in which the remains were afterwards found, and which also seemed full and heavy. His attention was particularly directed to the woman in consequence of her turning the turnstile twice while endeavouring to get the carpet bag through. He spoke to her about this, said that he would have to pay the money himself, and that she should have been more careful. The woman did not reply, but looked at him steadily while he lifted up the carpet bag for her and placed it on top of the turnstile. She then muttered something in a very gruff voice to the effect that it could not be helped, took the carpet bag, and walked slowly away. As it was thought possible from the gruffness of the voice that it might have been a man in woman's clothes, Etherington has been questioned on this point, but is positive as to it being a woman, as he saw her face most distinctly, and furthermore he remarked that she was short even for a woman.

The police are inclined to the opinion that in case of no cab having been employed, the murder must have been perpetrated at some of the houses of ill fame which are numerous enough almost within a stone's throw of that end of the bridge.

We may here mention that the police entertain little hopes of recovering the head, hands or feet of

the body. In their opinion these members were in the brown paper parcel taken on to the bridge and have been thrown into the river. Every part of it immediately beneath the bridge, on both the eastern and western sides, has been carefully dragged ; but, as might have been anticipated in a search for so small a parcel, and one so likely to be carried about by the slightest currents, without success.

The coroner's inquest on the human remains took place on Monday. The surgeon who had examined the portions of the body found in the carpet bag expressed his belief that the murdered person was a male, and that the wounds observed in the chest had been inflicted during life time. About that, he entertained no doubt. The only other witnesses examined were the lads by whom the carpet bag was discovered, and Etherington, the toll keeper at Waterloo Bridge, whose statement we have already noticed. The inquiry was adjourned until Monday the 26th inst.

Hilsby, the bargeman, on Monday brought to the station the missing sock and part of the neck handkerchief of the deceased, which were overlooked when the contents of the bag were first emptied out into the barge, but which on afterwards searching to see if any articles had been forgotten, he found. The sock is, of course, the fellow to that in the bag, and both, there is not the slightest doubt, are of German manufacture. They are cotton ribbed in a very peculiar manner, and such, it is stated, as are only made in Germany. This quite bears out the opinion expressed by tailors who have seen the clothes of the deceased, that at least the greater part were made abroad. Of course, with a foreigner who may have had but few friends in London, or possibly was only here on a short visit, this still further diminishes the chance of his clothes being recognised. The half of the necktie which has been found in the barge is a black silk, with a small patterned blue silk end. As with the other portions of the dress it has been cut in half at the back, and only one half appears to have been put into the carpet bag. From the make of the deceased's shirt, it is evidence that he must have worn his shirt collar turned down over the necktie, which again confirms the suspicion that he was not a native of this country.

103 November 26 1857

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

WILFUL DAMAGE **John Newton**, waterman, was brought up in the custody of Police-constable Morley, charged with damaging window shutters and breaking twelve squares of glass in the house of his father, William Newton, Castle Terrace. It appeared that the prisoner had often, late at night, returned home and behaved in a disorderly manner, and when at about two o'clock in the morning he came home intoxicated, his father refused to let him in, and he then broke the windows and shutters. He was ordered to pay 7s.

104 December 17 1857

DERBYSHIRE WINTER ASSIZES

STEALING A HORSE **Henry Martin**, boatman aged 27, was found guilty of stealing a horse, value £10, the property of William Harrison of Osmaston, in June last. In passing sentence, the Judge remarked upon the serious nature of the offence, and sentenced him to six years' penal servitude. On Tuesday, however, his Lordship mitigated the sentence to four years' penal servitude, in consequence of some circumstances which had come to his knowledge.

105 March 11 1858

LEICESTERSHIRE ASSIZES

NIGHT POACHING AT NEWTOWN LINFORD **Joseph Twells**, 27, labourer, **Pierce Bosworth**, 24, labourer, **Thomas Bosworth**, 19, boatman, and **William White** (the latter on bail) were charged with night poaching at Newton Linford, and assaulting **John Dawson**. **John Dawson**, sworn : I am an assistant gamekeeper to the Earl of Stamford. Was in a field occupied by **John Watson** about two o'clock of the morning in question, and observed four or five men setting a long net. Went to them, and one of them cried out, "Stand, chaps ; every one of you stand, and fling it into the b---". They then began to throw stones. They had sticks in their hands. The stones they took from their

pockets. They had two poaching dogs with them, which they tried to “loo” on to us. I told my men to go into them. I was armed with a stick, and went towards them, and I then felt a blow with a stick over my head and arm, which knocked me down. I went towards them for the purpose of taking them. I then got up, and knocked one man down, and gave him into custody of one of my men. I then knocked Pierce Bosworth down, and gave him in charge to Thomas Warner. On searching the fields after the scuffle, I found several nets and rabbits, and next morning I found a quantity of sticks and stones which are produced. Thomas Wade corroborated. Several other persons also spoke to witnessing the assault. The jury found all the prisoners guilty. Twells was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, and the other prisoners to six months' imprisonment each.

106 May 27 1858

GRANTHAM BOROUGH MAGISTRACY Three other men, Crisp, **Day** and Gaddis, drunkards all, were brought up in custody, having been apprehended in the streets in a tipsy and disorderly state. They were ordered to pay 2s 6d fine and 4s costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment with hard labour. Crisp paid the fine, but Day, a boatman, and Gaddis, a tramp, were ordered to the gaol.

107 May 27 1858

SERIOUS ROBBERY FROM THE PERSON At the police court this morning, a woman of dissolute character named Eliza Gibbons was brought before the sitting magistrates (the mayor and S Newham Esq), on the charge of robbing **James White** of £6 15s 6 ½ d yesterday. The prosecutor, who is a boatman living at Ilkeston, met with the prisoner at the Ten Bells, Narrow Marsh, about ten o'clock last night, and accompanied her to Allsopp's lodging house (a notorious resort of thieves of the worst character). Whilst in this house the robbery was effected, Mrs Allsopp being present in the room at the time when the prosecutor believed he was robbed. He gave information to the police, and this morning the prisoner was taken into custody by detective Whieldon. No money was found upon her. Mr Bowley appeared for the prisoner, who was remanded until Saturday, in order that the attendance of Mrs Allsopp, who had gone to Southwell races, might be secured.

108 June 10 1858

About five o'clock on Sunday morning last, the body of a young woman, apparently about 20 years of age, was discovered in the canal near the Proof House, Banbury Street, by a lock-keeper named **Ashbury**. The body was removed to the Royal Oak, Fazeley Street, where it was subsequently identified. The deceased, whose name is Louisa Stych, has for some time past resided with her uncle, Mr W Stych, wholesale confectioner, Dale End, and there is every reason to suppose that she committed suicide. She has latterly suffered from ill health, and at times appeared much depressed.

Birmingham Gazette

109 June 24 1858

SOUTHWELL

PETTY JUSTICE ROOM, JUNE 14 Richard Pearce Elvidge, labourer, Caunton, pleaded guilty under the Criminal Justice Act to having, on the 3rd inst at Fiskerton, stolen a sovereign, the property of George Cooke of Dunham, boatman. To be imprisoned and kept to hard labour in the House of Correction 21 days.

110 July 1 1858

FATAL ACCIDENT FROM FURIOUS DRIVING On Thursday evening last, an elderly man named **Samuel Turner**, well known in Newark as a boatman, who has for some years got his living chiefly by mending sails, sacks, &c, met with his death in an awfully sudden manner, by being thrown out of a cart in the village of Kirton. The driver of the cart was William White of Broughton, a man who is noted for reckless driving, and who nearly killed a man through it about a year ago. On Friday an inquest on view of the body of the deceased was held at the Fox and Hounds public house, Kirton, before W Newton Esq, district coroner. Evidence was given to prove

that in coming down the hill William White drove very rapidly, and struck the pony several times before she started into a gallop. The deceased repeatedly stated before he died that he asked White either to drive slower or allow him to get out. A little way round a sharp corner at the bottom of the hill, the cart turned completely over, laying the pony on its back. White was thrown a little distance without receiving much injury, but the deceased fell under the cart, his shoulder was dislocated, and he died at three o'clock the next morning from internal haemorrhage caused by the accident. Both of them were sober at the time. Deceased was about 70 years of age, and has left a wife, who lives in Parliament Street, Newark. The whole of the evidence having been taken, William White, after being cautioned by the coroner, voluntarily made the following statement :- "I live at Broughton, and am a surveyor and agent to Taylor and Ewington's brewery. I was walking half way down the hill, and the pony ran away. I thought something had broken, as the pony could not stop, and I believe something did break ; the cart ran against the pony, and she could not stop. The farther she went the worse she galloped, till at the bottom of the hill, when she threw over a little past the corner. I have nothing more to say". The jury returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against William White, who was committed to gaol on the coroner's warrant to take his trial at the next assizes at Nottingham.

111 July 15 1858

DEATH FROM A FALL On Saturday last, Mr Coroner Browne held an inquest over the body of **William Watson**, an elderly man who lived at the canal locks near Long Eaton, and obtained his living as a boatman. On the Wednesday week preceding the inquest, the deceased was stooping by the canal side to pick up his boat hook, when a boatman passing with a plank accidentally ran against him, and knocked the unfortunate man down the canal bank, a distance of six feet, on to a boat. He was taken up and conveyed to the General Hospital, Nottingham, where he died on Thursday last. Verdict : "Death from an accidental fall".

112 July 15 1858

TO COAL AND IRONMASTERS AND OTHERS

SALE OF BOATS AT ILKESTON

POTT AND NEALE will sell by auction on Friday the 30th day of July 1858, at Dawson's Dock, the Canal, Ilkeston, Derbyshire at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely

FIVE CAPITAL CANAL BOATS

belonging to the estate of **Mr Thomas Thornicroft** of Leicester, a bankrupt.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to J HARRIS Esq, Official Assignee ; or to the Auctioneers, Nottingham.

113 July 29 1858

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

POCKET PICKING IN A PUBLIC HOUSE Joseph Wetherall, 23, trimmer, Leen Side, was charged with stealing 3s 6d and a knife from the person of **William Davison**, a waterman, in the Turk's Head, Leen Side, yesterday evening. Whilst the prosecutor was sitting asleep, the prisoner was seen to put his hand in his pocket, and afterwards the prosecutor said his pocket had been cut and a knife and 3s 6d extracted. A policeman was fetched, and the man was given into custody, but no money or knife was found in his possession. Discharged with a caution.

114 September 16 1858

DEATHS At East Retford on the 11th instant, aged 35, **Mr T Hackett**, boatman, Sutton's Row.

115 September 30 1858

BOY DROWNED On the 22nd instant, **George Simmons**, about ten years old, son of **Samuel Simmons** of Loughborough, boatman, was thrown into the river near Kegworth by the boat line, and was drowned before he could be got out. An inquest was held the next day before J Gregory

Esq, coroner, when a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

116 October 21 1858

NEWARK

COUNTY SESSIONS ROOM, OCTOBER 13 **Samuel Turner** of Newark, boatman, was charged by Henry Shephard of South Muskham with taking a quantity of fish from the river Trent, in which E Welby and others had a private right of fishery, in South Muskham parish. Shephard deposed that he saw another men named Elisha Cartledge (who had not been found) throwing grain, which was afterwards found to be poison, in the water. That a large quantity of fish was shortly afterwards seen floating on the water, apparently under the influence of poisoned grain, and that the defendant and his son jointly assisted Cartledge in collecting the fish out of the river. Convicted in penalty and costs of 20s, besides the value of the fish, 2s.

117 October 28 1858

NEWARK **John Watson**, boatman, was indicted for stealing a quantity of hay, the property of Sarah Elizabeth Capps, at Saundy on the 28th September. It was proved by the witness that hay corresponding with the hay which was lost by the prosecutrix was found in the prisoner's boat, and he produced a respectable witness who proved that he sold the prisoner some hay of the same quality and appearance about the time of the offence charged in the indictment. Acquitted.

118 November 18 1858

DEATHS At Newark on the 15th, aged 44, **Mr Thomas Blatherwick**, waterman, Taylor's Yard.

119 November 25 1858

CHILD BURNT : CAUTION TO PARENTS An inquest was held at the Ram Inn, Loughborough, on Wednesday before J Gregory Esq, coroner, on the body of **George Smith**, aged five years, son of **Joseph Smith**, a boatman, who was so burnt on Monday that he died the next day. The circumstances as detailed by the mother of the child and other witnesses were as follows :- On the day above stated, the mother sent a little girl and the deceased for half a hundredweight of coal, and while they were gone, she went into a neighbour's house to warm her infant. The children returned earlier than was expected, and when they got into the house the deceased took a bit of paper and lighted it at the fire, by which its clothes were set in a blaze and it ran into the street screaming. A man named Pilesbury, going by at the time, put out the flames, but the little creature was very much burnt about the stomach, back and arms. Verdict : "Accidental death".

120 December 16 1858

GAINSBOROUGH On Thursday last, an inquest was held at the Queen's Arms, Gainsborough, before C Holgate Esq, touching the death of **John Bayley**, boatman. From the evidence adduced, it appears that the unfortunate deceased was employed on a keel belonging to Captain Howard. The keel was moored at Rowstaithe, with a plank extending from it to the shore, in crossing this plank to get on board late on Monday night, he is supposed to have missed his footing, the night being dark, and so fallen into the water. No assistance being at hand, and the poor man no swimmer, he was drowned. The body was not discovered until about half past ten on Tuesday morning by the captain of another keel moored near the spot. It was at first said the deceased was intoxicated when the accident took place, but there is no proof of this statement ; the probabilities indeed are in favour of his being quite sober at the time. It appears also that deceased was of rather weak intellect, and has on two previous occasions fallen into the water, but assistance being near he was rescued without sustaining much injury. There being no evidence, however, to show actually how deceased had come by his death, an open verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

121 December 16 1858

DEATHS At Newark, on the 8th instant, aged 3 years, **Joseph**, son of **Mr George Glazebrook**,

waterman.

122 December 30 1858

FREEHOLD ESTATE AT EAST BRIDGEFORD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

To be sold by auction.

Lot 1 : A messuage or dwelling house at East Bridgeford in the county of Nottingham, with the Yard, Garden and Orchard thereunto belonging, in the occupation of **Mr William Millington**, boatman.

123 January 13 1859

DEATHS On the 9th instant, aged 84, **Martha**, relict of **Mr Thomas Bux**, boatman, Coldham Street, Nottingham.

124 March 17 1859

A WOMAN DROWNED An inquest was held on Monday last at Mr Bullock's, the Ram Inn, Loughborough, before J Gregory Esq, on the body of Margaret Baines, a native of Dublin, who was found drowned in the canal on Sunday morning, the 13th inst. The particulars of the case are as follows :- Ann Dickens, assistant at the Ram Inn, said deceased went in with another female on Saturday evening soon after nine ; she was then tipsy ; she did not see her have anything to drink while she (witness) was there, which was till about ten. William Alvey, labourer, residing on the canal bank, deposed to seeing deceased on Saturday night a little before twelve, as he was going home with his wife. She and several others came out of the Ram. She proceeded along the bank before them ; she was very drunk and staggered about. When they got up to her, he said, "Missus, there's no lodging house on here" ; she replied, "Let me alone, I know where I am going" ; on his wife trying to get her to turn back, she made use of the same expression to her. After they had been at home a short time, witness, feeling uneasy about her, went along the bank to try and persuade her to go home ; he found her near Mr Crawford's house, lying on her back with her feet dangling over into the ditch which runs parallel with the canal ; he told her she had better not lie there, when she said, "I ain't the woman you want – let me alone" ; he, however, helped her up, and went with her to the corner of Bridge Street. He then went to see a man named Litherland, and when he returned he found her standing where he had left her. He asked her where she lodged, but as she would not tell him and did not wish to be meddled with, he left her, and never saw her alive again. There was no one else near at the time. John Litherland said he was going with his wife to call on the last witness at about half past twelve o'clock on the night in question. He saw the deceased standing against some palisades, and went up to her to induce her to go home ; but as she used some very bad language, he left her, and went on to Alvey's. He and his wife stopped there about an hour, during which time Alvey went to the door to see if she was in sight, but did not see her. Witness did not see her when he returned home. Where she was found was very near where he last saw her. William Barker, foot post to Rothley, resides on the canal bank. On Sunday morning as he was going to the post office, about six o'clock, he saw deceased's body floating in the middle of the canal. He got a boat hook out of a boat close by, and pulled her to the shore ; he dragged her out, and called up another postman named Clark to look after her, as he was obliged to go on to the post office. Clark fetched a policeman. Bridget Holland, keeper of a common lodging house, said she had known deceased about nine years ; she had lodged with her this time nearly three weeks ; she was about 60 years of age. Deceased went out between ten and eleven on Saturday morning, and returned between four and five ; she was then "fresh". She had some tea, and went out a little before nine ; witness heard her voice as she was passing the Ram. She never gave witness reason to suppose she would drown herself. She had not been well since she had a paralytic stroke. Deceased travelled about, selling pin cushion covers and small articles in the lace trade ; her husband was dead. Mr Harrison, assistant to Mr Palmer, said he had been called to examine the body. There were no marks of violence, excepting some abrasions on the right elbow ; the elbow

joint was partially dislocated, which a fall on the elbow might easily occasion. There was every feature of death from drowning, which he had no hesitation in saying he believed to be the case. The jury returned an open verdict : “Found drowned, but whether the act was intentional or accidental, there is not sufficient evidence to decide”.

125 May 19 1859

MARRIAGES At Grantham on the 9th instant, Mr Joseph Dickinson, bricklayer, to **Ann Elizabeth**, daughter of **William Hewardine**, boatman of Grantham.

126 June 9 1859

ATROCIOUS MURDER IN SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE One of the most horrible and atrocious murders that has ever darkened the annals of crime has been recently committed near Princes End. The affair is at present shrouded in some mystery, but on Monday four men were apprehended on suspicion of being concerned in the horrible affair. From what we have been able to gather, it appears that on Thursday evening last, as a man named Thomas Perrens, by trade a puddler, was walking along the canal side near the Moat Colliery (Messrs Beeston's) at Princes End, he perceived something floating on the surface, which he at first took to be a dummy, placed there for the purpose of hoaxing passers by ; but on a more minute examination, he discovered it to be the body of a female. He at once went in the direction of the Princes End Police Station, accompanied by a man named Collier, whom he met on his way. On stating what he had seen to the officer in attendance, he was accompanied to the spot by Police-constable Williams, who procured a boat hook and landed the body. Deceased appeared to be about twenty two or twenty three years of age, and her dress indicated that she was a boatwoman, or one belonging to the lower order. She had on a worsted jacket, lilac dress and apron, watered moreen skirt, and strong lace up boots. She bore marks of violence upon all parts of her person, both eyes were blackened, her nose was broken and flattened, and there was a wound on the right side of the head, about an inch in length, which would be produced by a blow from a blunt instrument. She was also dreadfully bruised and battered about the chest and bosom, as if from kicks. Her dress was torn and disordered in such a manner as to leave no doubt that she had struggled hard in the hands of her abusers. The officer and his assistants conveyed the body to the Bull's Head Inn to await an inquest, and in the meantime, Sergeant Tubman of the Staffordshire Constabulary made unceasing efforts to discover in whose company the deceased had been last seen. An inquest was opened on the body on Saturday night before Mr Hinchcliffe, and adjourned for a fortnight. At the inquiry, Mr Underhill, surgeon of Great Bridge, stated that he had made a *post mortem* examination of the deceased. He found the interior of the body generally in a healthy state. The wounds on the body were of a recent date. He could not state whether deceased was dead when thrown into the water ; but, from the position she was in, he imagined she must have struggled. A forgerman residing at Princes End, named Thomas Harper, deposed at the inquest to having seen the deceased in company with a man not in custody, and the four men apprehended. He saw the man not in custody strike her, but he thought nothing of it at the time. The names of the four men in custody are Thomas Wilkins, 21, Edward Acton, 20, William Acton, 16 and Richard Catatan, 17, all forgermen residing at Princes End, Tipton. Evidence was given at the inquest by Thomas Preston, puddler of Tipton, Jeremiah Jones, and Thomas Pardon, a forgerman of Tipton, to the effect that they saw the four men in custody and others with the deceased (near the spot where the body was found) on the previous Sunday night. One of those witnesses (Jones) admitted that he brought deceased out of a public house, and when with her himself, the prisoners came “upon him”, and he, suspecting that they would ill treat the woman, came away and, as he states, went in search of a constable, leaving her in the hands of the prisoners and other men. Not finding an officer, he said nothing about it till the next day, Monday. Warrants were at once issued for the prisoners' apprehension ; and on Sunday afternoon, after a smart chase, Sergeant Tubman and his assistants succeeded in apprehending the four men near Dudley. A fifth, named Joseph Allen, escaped the vigilance of the officers, and has not yet been heard of. The body of the deceased has not yet been identified, and has therefore not been interred. The greatest excitement

prevails in that locality, and crowds of persons have visited the neighbourhood since the affair has been made known.

127 August 25 1859

BINGHAM JUSTICE ROOM **William Simpson**, boatman of Hickling, was charged by his wife with an assault, and was required to enter into sureties to keep the peace, himself in £25 and two sureties in £20 each, for six months.

128 August 25 1859

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

RADFORD : OFFENCE UPON A CANAL A man named **Blatherwick**, described as a boatman, was fined 40s including costs for letting down the paddles of a canal lock at Radford on the 22nd July without using a windlass, as required by the Act.

129 September 15 1859

INQUEST An inquest was held on the 3rd inst, before Mr Denman, deputy coroner, at the house of Mr H Cutts, the Swan Inn, Castle Street, touching the death of **George Watson**, a boatman aged 50 years, and who has left a wife and two children to survive him. It appears that the deceased was found dead in the Swan Inn yard, near Castle Street, early on the morning of Saturday week. Several witnesses gave evidence in this case. Henry Hase Esq, surgeon, sworn, said : I have seen the body of the deceased, and made a *post mortem* examination. The aspect of the body is that of a fine healthy well formed man. There are no wounds or abrasions of the skin. I have carefully examined the viscera and they are quite healthy in appearance. I should say the man had more drink than was necessary, and that his death resulted from fatal syncope. A verdict in accordance with the medical testimony was returned.

130 September 22 1859

GEDLING : FOUND DROWNED C Swann Esquire, coroner, held an inquest on Saturday last, the 17th inst, at the house of Mr John Cupit, the Ferry Boat Inn, Stoke Bardolph, in the parish of Gedling, on view of the body of a man unknown which on Friday morning last was found floating down the river Trent, just below Ratcliffe Wharf corner, by a boatman named **William Foster** of the Leen Side. By the assistance of a boat and boat hook the body was got out of the water, and the policeman sent for to take charge thereof. Police-constable William Easom said the dress of deceased was blue pilot jacket, waistcoat and trousers, quite new. Shoes laced up in front, apparently new ; blue striped cotton shirt, under flannel jacket, cotton drawers, grey worsted stockings, black twilled handkerchief. Hair nearly black ; no whiskers, but sandy coloured tuft of hair under his chin. He appeared to be about 5 ft 8 in in height, and aged between 25 and 30 years. Five half crowns, two shillings in silver and 4 ³/₄ d in copper was found upon him. No watch, memorandum or papers were found upon his person. The jury returned the following verdict :- "That the deceased is to the jury unknown, and that he was found drowned in the river Trent, but how he came into the water there is no evidence to prove".

131 October 13 1859

SERIOUS ROBBERY IN PARLIAMENT STREET On Wednesday morning at the town police court, Thirza Betts or Bates, a well known bad character, and Charlotte Martin, beer house keeper, were charged with the robbery of £25, the property of a old man named **Samuel Booth**. Detective Bacon and the man Booth stated the case. It appeared that the prosecutor, who is a boatman and lives at Ilkeston, comes to Nottingham on business several days in each week, and makes a practice of putting up at Mrs Martin's beer house. On Tuesday night he did so as usual, and before going to bed he gave Mrs Martin three £5 notes and ten sovereigns to take care of for him. He went to bed about nine o'clock, placing his trousers, with 8s 6d in one of the pockets, under his pillow. He awoke about five o'clock on Wednesday morning and at once missed his trousers. Upon searching,

he found them on the other side of the room, but the 8s 6d was gone. He roused the landlady, who comforted him with the assurance that his other money was safe. About six o'clock, however, she alarmed him with the tidings that the £25, which she had put with her own money, a sovereign and 33s, had been stolen, as well as the latter. The girl Betts, who is a servant in the house and had been sleeping with Mrs Martin, declared she had had the money in her hand after the prosecutor gave the first alarm and woke her. Booth then sent for the police, and PC Towle and Detective Bacon were soon on the spot. Before their arrival, however, a man named Bentley who was in the house told Mrs Martin that the girl hid the money down in the cellar. Mrs Martin went and found the girl there, and received from her half a sovereign and some silver, part of her own money. She brought this with a cheque, also her own, to Booth, saying she had found the latter in the water closet. Upon the arrival of the police, Mrs Martin went out and borrowed £25, which she gave to Booth to stop the proceedings, but he gave both the woman and the girl into custody. Mr Felkin remanded both the prisoners until Friday. They were afterwards discharged.

132 **October 20 1859**

NOTTINGHAM QUARTER SESSIONS

THE ROBBERY AT THE "TOM MOODY" George Madin, 21, butcher, and Thirza Betts, 21, no trade, were indicted and pleaded not guilty to stealing in the dwelling house of John Martin, the "Tom Moody", Parliament Street, three £5 notes, a banker's receipt for £80, £11 10s in gold and £1 13s in silver, the property of the said John Martin, on the 12th October. Mr Bristowe conducted the case for the prosecution, and Mr Boden defended Madin. Mrs Martin, living at the "Tom Moody" beer house in Parliament Street, said : On the 11th October instant the prisoner Betts was in her employment. On the night named, a person named **Booth** slept at witness's house. Booth gave witness three £5 notes and 10 sovereigns, and witness tied them up in a bag. Many persons were present at the time. The bag was then put in a carpet bag in witness's bedroom. Witness's purse was also put in the bag, with 33s in silver, £1 10s in gold and a banker's receipt for £80. The prisoner Betts slept with witness on the night in question, in consequence of her (witness's) husband being away. In the morning witness was awakened by Booth's walking about in the passage, and went to ask him what was the matter, but previous to so doing, had looked in the bag to see if the money was safe, and placed it ready for him when he should want it on going away. On witness's return into the room, she perceived the money was gone, and asked Betts where it was, as she had but just before had it. Betts then got up, saying she had a very severe pain at her chest, and went into the club room. Soon after she returned to the bedroom, for a skirt she had left, and said she was very bad and must go downstairs. About eight o'clock witness was called downstairs by Bentley, the brewer, saying that Betts knew something about the money. In the brewhouse witness saw Betts, and then prisoner handed her the purse with 30s in silver and half a sovereign, and also the cheque. Booth's money and the rag in which it was wrapped were gone. The prisoner declared she had never seen any more money than that she turned up. The money, £25, had since been paid to Booth by witness. Henry Wheatley, gardener, was going by the beer house in question on the morning named, and was told by Booth to fetch the police. Booth at that time held the female prisoner by the skirt, saying she had got his money. Betts denied all knowledge of the robbery. William Booth, boatman of Ilkeston, had given Mrs Martin the money mentioned, to take care of for the night. William Bentley said about eight o'clock on the morning of the 12th October he was at the Tom Moody beer house. Saw the female prisoner in the brewhouse, standing against a washing stool, when she handed him the purse of her mistress, telling him to keep it till she spoke to him again. Witness looked in the purse to see if all the money was there ; finding it deficient, he gave it her back, telling her to put it where she had it from. Witness then ran to tell Mrs Martin, and the purse was given by prisoner to Mrs Martin. Margaret Ward, on Wednesday afternoon, was at the Kingston's Arms, and saw Madin come in, alone. He spoke to a Mrs Hill, and said he had got a new pair of trousers. Thirza had given him six sovereigns out of that she had taken from Martin's. The trousers had cost a sovereign, and a pair of carpet slippers had been bought for 2s 6d. That he had also been with Thirza to buy a pair of boots, had left her on the Long Row, and would have no more

to do with her, for fear of trouble. He exhibited gold and silver. Sarah Ann Hill, being sworn, said she was at the Kingston's Arms at the time stated by the last witness. The prisoner, Madin, came in with a parcel. After a short conversation, he asked to be allowed to change his trousers at witness's house. Permission was granted, and he changed them upstairs, taking the old ones away with him under his coat. He said he had been "dabbling" in some calves, and exhibited some gold, also stating that he had got his "whack" from Thirza. John Brown, assistant to Mr Bullock, pawnbroker, in Goose Gate, had sold a frock to the female prisoner on Wednesday afternoon, for payment of which she tendered a sovereign. The sovereign was taken from a rag in which other sovereigns were. John Selby, assistant at Mr Beckett's shop on Long Row had sold a pair of boots and a pair of carpet slippers to prisoners on Wednesday afternoon about half past 1 o'clock. A sovereign was given in payment by the male prisoner. Joseph Daniel Betts, assistant at Mr Fletcher's shop, Milton Street, sold a pair of cord trousers to male prisoner on Wednesday for 15s. The female prisoner also purchased a shawl for 6s 6d, for which another man paid. A sovereign was tendered. John Norris deposed that he saw prisoner Madin between 4 and 5 o'clock in Parliament Street on Wednesday afternoon. Madin said he had got the 6s 6d (stolen from Booth's pocket) and £10 for his "whack" from Thirza. This concluded the case for the prosecution, and Mr Boden addressed the jury for the defence. The learned Recorder briefly summed up, and the jury, after 15 minutes deliberation, found a verdict of guilty against both prisoners. A prior conviction was sworn to against the prisoner Betts. She was ordered to be kept in penal servitude for 3 years ; Madin to be imprisoned in the House of Correction with hard labour for 10 calendar months. The court rose at half past nine o'clock.

133 December 1 1859

An inquest has been held on the body of a little girl named Frances Smith, who met her death under the following distressing circumstances. A few days ago, when the fog was very dense in the neighbourhood of Wakefield, Mrs Smith took her little girl, who was suffering from the jaundice, to the house of Mrs Butcher at Netherton. Returning home, she missed her way, and fell into the canal. Her screams attracted the attention of a boatman who was near the spot, who hastening to the woman's assistance, succeeded in getting her on to the canal bank. He afterwards succeeded in recovering the child, but life was extinct. A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned.

134 December 15 1859

THE WINTER ASSIZE The following prisoners are for trial :- **James Thornton**, boatman, and Henry Johnson, labourer, for feloniously and burglariously breaking the dwelling house of Edward Hall, with intent to steal, on the 7th August.

135 December 22 1859

NOTTINGHAM ASSIZES

BURGLARY IN NARROW MARSH **James Thornton**, 30, boatman, and Henry Johnson, 33, labourer, were indicted for having, on the 7th August last, broken into the dwelling house of Edward Hall with intent to steal. Mr Merewether prosecuted. The prosecutor was the first witness sworn. He said he was a tailor living in Red Lion Street, and had two lodgers. On the morning of the 7th August he and his wife retired to bed about one o'clock, leaving all the doors and windows fastened. The cellar grate was not fastened, but the door of the cellar was fastened with a lock and a staple. About half an hour afterwards he heard a noise, and went downstairs with a candle. He found the two prisoners in the passage, and upon examining the cellar door, he found it had been burst open. Thornton said the lodger, Smart, had brought him in. The lodgers were called down, and both denied knowing anything about it. The cellar grate was not moved, but there were some marks as of feet upon the coal slack beneath it. The prosecutor's wife was called to corroborate this statement. William Smart, one of the lodgers, said he went to bed on the night before the day in question about nine o'clock. He knew the prisoners, and had worked at the Gas Works with the prisoner Thornton last winter. He had not seen either of them on the day before or the night of the

robbery. Bernard Cotes, a plasterer, said he was the other lodger at Hall's, and had never seen either of the prisoners before. Police-constable Tomlinson was on duty in Red Lion Street at the time, and heard the noise of a door opening. He went to the door of Hall's house and someone said all was right. Not feeling satisfied, he went again, held the door, aroused Hall's wife, signalled for another officer, and waited until Hall opened the door from the inside. He felt someone try to open the door before Hall came. When he got in he found the prisoners, heard Thornton's statement about Smart, and found the cellar door opened, as though the lock had been forced from the staple by means of a stick from the side nearest the cellar. Police-constable Berrington corroborated the deposition of the last witness, and Police-constable Barnett said he took charge of the prisoner while the other constables went into the cellar. Johnson said to him, "Let me go down". Witness said, "No". Johnson then said, "I know my doom, pull the ---- ruffles out and put 'em on me". He found a candle and some matches behind the door. Eliza Hall, the prosecutor's wife, was recalled, and said the candles and matches did not belong to her. The prisoners made no defence, and his Lordship having summed up, the jury found a verdict of guilty. The prisoner Johnson had been previously sentenced to seven years' transportation. Johnson was sentenced to six years' penal servitude, and Thornton to one year's hard labour.