

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GUARDIAN
1860 to 1869

1 January 5 1860

RETFORD POLICE COURT

THROWING A BOY INTO THE CANAL **John Jackson**, a boatman, was brought up under warrant charged with having, on the 12th of July last, assaulted George Barlow, a boy about eleven years of age, by throwing him into the Chesterfield Canal near West Retford Lock. George Barlow stated that on the day named he was on the towing-path of the canal near West Retford lock. The defendant and two others came up to him, and the defendant, without saying a word, took him by the waist and threw him into the canal. It was deep, and he could not feel the bottom. He could swim a little, and so managed to get to the bank. A man named Palmer was one of the party, and helped to pull him out. He knew the defendant to be the man who threw him into the water. A witness confirmed the boy's evidence. The defendant denied his guilt, and said he was drunk that day. The Chairman said there was no doubt of the assault having been committed, and it was fortunate the consequences were not worse. The Bench felt bound to regard it as a great offence, and ordered the defendant to be committed to the House of Correction for one month with hard labour, and to pay the expenses, in default of which to be imprisoned for an additional month.

2 January 19 1860

BASFORD – SUDDEN DEATH On Wednesday the 11th inst, Mr Coroner Swann held an inquest at the house of William Basford, the Standard of England, Basford, touching the death of a child aged six weeks named **James Flear**, son of **Joseph Flear**, boatman. It appeared from the evidence given by the mother that the deceased child had been afflicted with a cold since its birth, and on Monday she gave it some castor oil, and applied hot bran bags to its stomach. The child was very feverish at that time, but in the evening it seemed rather improved. About 11 o'clock she took it to bed, where it soon fell asleep upon her arm. About one o'clock in the morning, she was awoken by the child fighting with its arms and legs, and crying. She gave it the breast, and after sucking greedily, it again fell into a doze ; but only remained in that state for a few minutes, and again commenced fighting, and almost immediately expired. Mr Maltby, surgeon, was called as a witness, and gave his opinion that deceased had died from bronchial affliction of the lungs, producing convulsive action. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

3 January 19 1860

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

CHARGE OF STEALING CORN **Samuel Crafts**, a waterman, appeared to answer a charge of stealing a quantity of chaff and corn, the property of Mr Burgess, coal merchant. The evidence was inconclusive, and the prisoner was discharged.

ANOTHER CHARGE **Samuel Atkin**, the captain of a boat plying on the Grand Junction Canal, was charged with stealing a quantity of mixed chaff and corn, prepared for horses, the property of the Canal Company. Detective Walker had apprehended the prisoner on suspicion, and at his house found a large quantity of chop mixed with Indian corn, similar to that used by the Company. When asked where he obtained it, prisoner made no reply. Mr W Smith gave evidence that he was in prisoner's house two or three minutes previous to its being searched by Walker. A little boy ran in hurriedly, and told the mother to take the bag away directly. Prisoner was remanded till Thursday.

4 January 26 1860

A boatman named **Timmins** was drowned in a canal near Dudley a few days since, and when taken home dead, his mother died from fright at seeing the body.

5 February 2 1860

SUSPICIOUS DEATH On Thursday last at one o'clock in the afternoon, Mr Coroner Browne instituted an enquiry into the cause of death of Lorenzo Jarvis, a brewer aged 33 years, whose body was found in the Nottingham Canal on the preceding Tuesday, under circumstances of very great suspicion. We last week gave the particulars so far as had then come to light, and now subjoin the evidence given at the enquiry. Alfred Jarvis of New Street, Nottingham, said : The deceased was my brother. I have no doubt about his identity. He was 33 years of age. Mr Dabell Bannister, engineer, was next called, and said : I knew the deceased man, and was dragging for him on Friday last, in the canal with a boat hook. I found the body lying at the bottom about three yards from the side opposite Mr Walker's bone yard and just below the wooden bridge. His clothes were loose when I got him up. They were unbuttoned. By a juryman : His trousers were not down to his knees; his person was not exposed. His pockets were searched, and a silver sixpence and 5 ½ d was found upon him. I don't know whether he had any braces on. The money was in his jacket pocket. The police took possession of the body immediately after he was taken out of the water. The hooks caught hold by the coat, and I held him till he was pulled out. Mr John Bannister said : I live in Queen's Road, and am an innkeeper. The deceased left my house a little before twelve o'clock on Saturday night, and was then a little the worse for liquor. Before he went away I sold him 5 ½ lbs of beef which I wrapped up in a newspaper. He left my house in the early part of the day, and returned about half past ten o'clock. All that he had to drink at our house was two pints of ale and three pennyworth of rum. He had the rum five minutes before he left my house – whilst standing at the tap board. Police-constable Gamaliel Bingley, being sworn, said : I am one of the police force in Nottingham. I saw the body of deceased on Tuesday when he was got out of the water. I was present when he was searched. This would be about five o'clock. His clothes were undone in the front – his trousers – but not down. They must have been unbuttoned before he got in the water. They were not down behind. Police-constable Frederick Wheatley searched the body first and he gave me the money. It was taken from his left hand trouser's pocket. There was a 6d and 5 ½ d in copper. I did not see any marks or bruises about him then. When the body was brought to this house, I saw a mark on the back of his head. His braces were not attached to his trousers, and when I took his coat and waistcoat off, they came away with them. William Boardman of Queen's Square, Queen's Road, said : I am cotton carder at Mr Morley's. I went into Mr Bannister's about a quarter to eight o'clock, and the deceased came in about nine o'clock. He had a pint of ale and called for two cigars. When he was paying for the two cigars he pulled a handful of silver – I should think about twenty shillings – from his pocket. I left him at Mr Bannister's about five minutes to eleven. He was not then drunk. He appeared able to take care of himself. The room was full of company, but there were no loose persons present. There was no quarrelling. Francis Fowkes, living at Giltbrook Colliery, Nottinghamshire, said : I am a carpenter. On Sunday morning last I found a piece of meat on the canal side. It was against the Carrington Street Bridge, on the hauling path. It was close up to Mr Hall's wall, about twelve yards lower down than the bridge. This was about eight o'clock. By a Juryman : I did not see any footmarks near where I found the meat ; nor any money. The meat produced is the same I found. Mr Bannister spoke to the meat being the same he had supplied to deceased. Mr Joseph Orpe Brookhouse, surgeon of Nottingham, said : I made a *post mortem* examination of the body of the deceased yesterday afternoon. Externally there were no marks of violence except upon the head, where there were four – two very unimportant, and two very severe. The scalp was raised from the bone ; each piece being perhaps the size of a shilling or a little larger. The wounds were very irregular in shape ; their edges were not turned out ; and there was no blood infiltrated into the tissue of the scalp. I next opened the head of the deceased. There was no blood between the bone and the membrane of the brain at the spot of injury. The bone was not fractured and the brain was healthy. The lungs were filled with water, and the right side of the heart was filled with blood, the left side being empty. If the wounds had been made during life, there would have been blood effused into the tissue of the scalp ; but I did not find any. The state of the heart would indicate death from suffocation. Taking all the circumstances together, I have not a doubt that drowning was the immediate cause of death. The

wounds are, in my opinion, such as must have been made after death. There was a wound upon the forehead which appeared as if it had been caused by his lying upon the face. By a jurymen : It is quite possible that the man might be struck and the wounds caused which I have spoken of, before he was drowned ; provided he was cast into the water instantly. I should think the wounds were caused by a boat passing over him. I incline to the belief that the man lost his life by drowning, and not by the wounds found upon him. This was the whole of the evidence, and several of the jurymen being desirous to hear further facts, if possible, concerning the deceased's proceedings after leaving Mr Bannister's house, the Coroner adjourned the inquiry till Monday evening.

The inquisition before M Browne Esq was resumed on Monday evening at six o'clock. The following additional evidence was adduced :- Mr Joseph Hickling, landlord of the Trent Bridges Inn, said : I knew the deceased man – Jarvis. I knew him very well ; and employed him several times as a brewer. I saw him last Saturday night week. He was at my house. He left my house, to the best of my knowledge, about a quarter to nine o'clock. He was getting fresh then, and had perhaps six cans of ale. Shortly before he left my house, I paid him 16s 3d. I did not see any other money about him. I do not think he was a man likely to injure himself. By the jury : He appeared quite able to take care of himself. Police-constable Frederick Wheatley being called, said : I was not present when the body of Jarvis was taken out of the canal, but was there a few seconds after. I examined his pockets and found in the right hand trouser's pocket 6d in silver and 5 ½ d in copper. In the right hand trouser's pocket there was a hole at the side. It was not unstitched, but worn through. His left hand coat pocket was torn all to pieces. I turned him over and found his trousers unbuttoned at the front, with his shirt out. His braces were undone in front. His trousers were not down behind. There was a wound at the back of his head. I did not perceive any other wound. By the jury : The hole in his pocket was not large enough for a shilling to go through. The coat pocket appeared as if torn very violently – as if by the boat hook. The waistband of his trousers was fast, but the front part was down. Henry Munton, shoemaker, living on the Leen side, said : About one o'clock on Sunday morning week, I heard the cry of, “Murder!” I was then in bed. I live about 200 yards from the Carrington Bridge. The cry came from the direction of the bridge. I spoke to my wife and asked her if she heard the cry of murder, but she said she did not. Immediately after, the cry was renewed, and then we both heard it. I did not get up but lay awake for above an hour. I did not hear the cry again. I thought a man was being robbed, but I did not think that I could render any assistance. The cry was most terrific and loud. My house is against the Bleacher's Arms ; just facing where the man was pulled out. By the jury : I had been in bed about a quarter of an hour when I heard the cry ; I have no doubt about its being a man's voice, and he seemed in great trouble. Police-constable Martin Burton Draycott deposed : I was on duty near the Carrington Bridge last Saturday night. I went on the beat at a quarter past 10 o'clock, and remained till after six o'clock. My beat was on the Leen side, Station Street, and Queen's Road. During the night I did not hear any disturbance about the bridge or canal side. It was a very rough night, very stormy, and very windy. By a jurymen : I believe I should be on the Queen's Road at one o'clock ; I cannot say that I saw any suspicious characters about that night. Eliza Bannister, living at the Queen's Arms, Queen's Road, said : I knew Jarvis, and met him last Saturday night week about a quarter past 11 o'clock. He was alone, and was walking steadily along. I spoke to him, and bade him, “Good night, brewer”; I don't know that he answered me. I met him between Mr Shepperson's shop and our own. He had a parcel with him – under his arm. Mrs Harriet Jarvis, being called, said : I am the widow of deceased. He left home on Saturday morning about a quarter past 7 o'clock. He had then in his possession a sovereign, a five shilling piece, a fourpenny bit, and three half pence in copper. He had also a common comb, a knife with three brass rivets, a pair of kid gloves and a spotted pocket handkerchief – rather faded. His trouser's pockets were whole when he left home. He had nothing to pay on that day. This concluded the evidence, and the Coroner summed up. The jury after a short deliberation returned a verdict of “Found drowned in the Nottingham Canal under circumstances of very grave suspicion”.

6 February 2 1860

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

ASSAULTING A CONSTABLE A young man named **Douglass**, a boatman, was charged with assaulting Police-constable John Moore in the execution of his duty. Complainant was on the London Road about twenty minutes to four o'clock on the morning of the 21st instant, and met defendant with a truss of hay upon his back. He asked him whose it was and where he was going, but he refused to answer, and on being further questioned struck at complainant and knocked his hat off. Defendant pleaded guilty, and was ordered to pay 20s or be imprisoned for 14 days.

7 March 29 1860

FEARFUL BOAT ACCIDENT At Worcester on Friday, a coal boat, the *Lady Wood*, was coming down the river when she struck against the piling of the Worcester and Hereford Railway Bridge, and instantly capsized. There were in the boat at the time the captain (**Whitehouse**), his wife and three children, , a sister of Whitehouse's wife, and a boatman named **Carson**. The three children and Mrs Whitehouse's sister were in the cabin and were drowned. Carson swam ashore, and the captain contrived to get on to the piling and seized his wife by the hair of the head as the boat sank under her. He managed to retain his hold until a boat was put out and rescued them.

8 April 12 1860

NEWARK AND RETFORD DISTRICT SESSIONS

STEALING A BOAT LINE AT STOCKWITH Robert Watkin, 27, labourer, was charged with stealing, on the 14th January last, a boatline value 10s, the property of **Joseph Howlett**. Mr Bell conducted the prosecution, prisoner was undefended. Prosecutor said he was a boatman living at Stockwith, and on Saturday the 14th January, he had a boat on the Trent there. About one o'clock in the morning he saw the line in the fore hatches of the boat, which was fastened to another keel. The same morning, about eight o'clock, the rope was cut and taken away. The line now produced was the same. He afterwards went to Henry Harrison's house, where he found the rope and took possession of it. By the prisoner : I saw you about four o'clock in the morning, but not afterwards. I never knew you to steal anything, and you always did your duty when you worked for me. John James saw the prisoner between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, in the landing place of the boat, bringing the line with him up the steps. When he got to the top, he put the line down while he lighted his pipe. Witness went to dip his bucket, and on his return five or ten minutes afterwards, the prisoner and rope were gone. By the prisoner : I did not see you take the rope away, and cannot swear that the line now produced is the same. Sampson Robinson said the prisoner came to his shop between seven and eight o'clock on the morning of January 14th, bringing a rope with him similar to that produced by the police, and asked him to take care of it for him. Witness told him he could not do with it, but agreed to take it for him to Henry Harrison's house. Henry Harrison said the last witness brought the rope to his place on the morning of the 14th January last, but in consequence of something he afterwards heard, he told prosecutor about it and gave it up to him. By prisoner : You was talking to me about the time when the rope was brought to me. The last witness told me a man would soon call for it. I never saw you with the line. Prisoner, in defence, said all he had to say was that he thought the jury could not find him guilty. He thought it was very hard that he had been lying in prison all this time when he did not steal the rope, and had never stolen anything in all his life. The jury found him guilty, and in consideration that he had been in prison since January, the sentence of the court was that he be imprisoned three weeks with hard labour, the last week solitary.

9 May 10 1860

FARNDON – INQUEST ON THE BODY OF MR BUCK Last week we recorded the melancholy death of Mr William Buck by drowning on Monday. The inquest was held on Tuesday afternoon at the Blue Bell Inn, Farnon, before W Newton Esq, coroner, and a respectable jury, of which Mr William Brockton was foreman. The jury having viewed the body and visited the spot where the

accident happened, the following witnesses were examined :- William Fox, bricklayer, Farndon, deposed that on Monday last he was working at Mr Jackson's mill. The hauling path from Newark to Farndon passes this mill. About five o'clock he saw Mr Buck galloping on horseback along the path. He seemed to have full control of the horse, for he pulled up at the gates and opened them. Witness lost sight of deceased after he had seen him pass through two gates, and therefore did not see him go into the river. John Aldridge, an intelligent lad nine years of age, said : My father has some sheep in his field, on the Rolleston side of the Trent. About half past five o'clock, I went on the pony to see after them. When on the opposite side of the river, I saw a young man on horseback in the middle of a field going foot pace. On coming up to the railings he went to the river side, as I thought for the purpose of letting his horse drink, but he walked straight into the water. The mare went quietly round the end of the pole which projected some distance over the water from the bank, and passed up the stream a little way, when she suddenly slipped into a hole and disappeared, except her head. I did not see how the rider lost his seat, but he fell off by some means, and seized hold of the reins. The mare turned round, and deceased appeared to try to swim, but he soon went down, and I saw him no more. The mare gave a plunge, and then began to swim down the stream. She got out on the same side about half way down the field. I called to the ferry, and William Morley gave an alarm. I did not see the deceased attempt to make the mare leap over the rail. The water reached up to the animal's belly as it went round the end of the pole. By a juryman : He had got about five yards past the pole up the river when the mare slipped into the hole. The other boy who saw the deceased is not here today, as he had to go to Hoveringham. Alfred Taylor said he heard of Mr Buck being in the water, and he ran to the river side directly, where he had a boat, with which he proceeded to the place where the deceased was drowned. He picked his hat up about seventy yards below where the body was found. The part where the body was found was sixteen feet deep, having a steep descent from the bank, and the bottom is covered with large rough stones. When witness reached the place, the mare was galloping about the field. **Thomas Hopkinson**, boatman, Farndon, deposed that he dragged for the body, and found it between eight and nine o'clock at night, above fifty yards from where it was expected he had got in, and about ten yards from the bank. In summing up, the Coroner said the case was a very simple one, which did not require many remarks from him. There appeared to be no doubt that the deceased met with his death purely accidentally. It was a well known fact, he observed, that when a drowning person once caught hold of anything they generally held it with a death grasp. On this ground, he could scarcely think that the deceased had hold of the horse's reins, as the witness Aldridge had said (though he gave his evidence in a very straightforward and satisfactory manner) because if he had, the animal might have drawn him out, unless he received a kick or some severe shock, in which case it was most likely that marks would have been made on his body, which did not appear to be the case, as he (the Coroner) paid particular attention to this in viewing the body. It was to be regretted that Mr Buck should have done such a foolhardy thing as to ride his horse round such a dangerous place, but it was not often that the minds of young persons could be impressed with a sense of danger. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased had been "accidentally drowned". The unfortunate young man would have been 19 on the 12th of May.

10 June 14 1860

ACCIDENTS The following casualties have been reported at the General Hospital during the past week :- On the 13th inst, **George Halford**, Haddington Street, boatman, aged 59 years, serious injury to thumb necessitating amputation.

11 June 28 1860

SOUTHWELL PETTY SESSIONS, JUNE 22 **Moses Maples** of Sutton-on-Trent, boatman, was charged by PC Hewitt with drunkenness at Fiskerton. Ordered to pay 10s costs.

12 June 28 1860

NEWARK

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE About five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, a Newark man named Henry Winn, a bricklayer in the employ of Mr Fretwell, deliberately leaped into the canal close to the lock gate while in a state of intoxication. Several men who were near at hand happened to see him, and at once ran to drag him out, or he must inevitably have been drowned.

13 July 5 1860

DEATHS At Newark on the 26th ult, aged 72, **Mr Daniel Palethorpe**, boatman.

14 July 5 1860

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE OF A YOUNG WOMAN At an early hour on Friday morning, a respectably dressed female was seen to precipitate herself into the water of the Regent's Canal, Victoria Park. She ran along the towing-path immediately at the rear of the Cricketers' Arms Tavern, and was soon struggling in the water. **Mr Russell**, the lock-keeper, and his son instantly hastened to the spot with the drags, but some minutes elapsed before the body could be secured. The deceased was a fine young woman, and subsequently she was identified as Mary Ann Fage, aged twenty years, the daughter of Mr Fage, the extensive broker of Whitechapel Road. It appears that the deceased was much attached to a young man with whom she had kept company four years. They were out together the night before last, had some words, and while standing at the door of the father's house, the young man refused to shake hands with her. The deceased was much annoyed and cried and told him that if he did not shake hands with her before they separated, she would drown herself. He did not heed what she said, and he left to go home. The deceased, however, left home unseen, and committed self destruction as above described.

15 August 2 1860

LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS

GAME TRESPASS **John Newton**, captain of a canal boat ; **John Newton**, boatman (who did not appear) ; and **Thomas Newton**, a lad, were charged with trespassing in pursuit of game on land in the occupation of Mr Harley at Loughborough on the 2nd ult. Mr Gyles appeared for the defendants. After hearing the evidence, the Bench decided that there was no case against the absent defendant, nor against the boy ; John Newton would be fined £1 including costs, or in default 14 days' imprisonment.

16 August 2 1860

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

LANGLEY MILL – FELONY **William Cutts**, a boatman, was placed in the dock charged with stealing a hammer, a brush and a quantity of horse corn from a boat belonging to a man named **Newton**, which was lying in the canal at Langley Mill, in the parish of Eastwood, on the night of the 28th July. The prisoner, who was in charge of his father's boat lying close by, entered the prosecutor's, and took away the articles above mentioned. They were afterwards found in his possession. The magistrates sentenced him to six weeks' imprisonment.

17 August 16 1860

DEATH OF A PRISONER AT THE SHIRE HALL C Swann Esq, coroner, held an inquisition on Monday last at the Shire Hall, into the cause of death of **Joseph Hindley**, aged 68 years, boatman of East Retford, a prisoner in the County Jail. At the Retford July Quarter Sessions, deceased was convicted of larceny, and was sentenced to be kept in penal servitude for three years. He was received into the County Jail on the 10th July last, and then seemed in good health, but about a fortnight afterwards was placed under the care of Dr Massey, the surgeon to the jail, who had been attending him ever since. He was found to be labouring under fever of a typhoid character, and the usual remedies were administered with improved diet as ordered by the surgeon, but he never

recovered, and expired on Monday morning about seven o'clock. Verdict : "Death from Typhoid fever, with congestion of the brain".

18 August 16 1860

DEATHS On the 18th instant at the County Gaol, Nottingham, aged 68, **Mr Joseph Hindley**, boatman.

19 October 11 1860

DEATHS

CATTELY At Newark on the 30th ultimo, aged 45, **Mr Richard Cattely**, boatman.

20 November 22 1860

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY A boatman named **George Johnson** of Retford was placed at the bar, charged with stealing 44 sacks of flax seed, value £55, the property of Mr Walker, merchant, Nottingham. The charge was preferred by Mr George Hilton, superintendent of the Derby police, who arrested the prisoner at the Willington Locks. After hearing the statement of the inspector, and Mr Walker, that he had had a large quantity of flax seed consigned to him from Hull, the prisoner was remanded for eight days, to complete the chain of evidence.

21 November 22 1860

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY OF FLAX SEED At the police court on Wednesday, a boatman named **George Johnston**, said to belong to Retford, was charged on suspicion of stealing a large quantity of flax seed, value £55, the property of Mr Walker, a merchant of this town. The circumstances, so far as they transpired in court, or is prudent to publish, are these. Owing to information received by Mr Superintendent Hilton of the Derby police, he proceeded to the Willington Locks last Saturday, accompanied by one of his inspectors, and arrested Johnston on suspicion of stealing 44 sacks of flax seed, which he had in his boats. The prisoner denied the theft, and said he had had the flax seed consigned to him by a Mr Jackson or Saxton of Gainsborough. In the course of conversation, he said he did not know from whom he got the flax seed ; and again he said he would tell the truth, that when they carried flax in their boats, if it was short in quantity on delivery they were required to pay for it, and if they had any over the quantity they considered it to be their own property. Mr Hilton said that 44 sacks was a rather large quantity to be a surplus weight on a small consignment, as it filled two boats, when the prisoner replied that the flax seed had been put into his boats at night from the hold of a vessel at Gainsborough, by the captain. Mr Coope, who appeared for the prisoner, advised him to reserve his defence, and Mr Cowley, for the prosecution, asked for a remand for eight days, which was granted, when it was known that a considerable consignment of flax seed had been made to Mr Walker from Hull.

22 November 22 1860

DERBY At the Derby Police Court on Monday, a boatman named **Johnson** was charged with being concerned in the robbery of a large quantity of linseed en route from Gainsborough to Nottingham. Mr Hilton, the head constable, received such information on Saturday as induced him to go in company with Inspector Fearn to Willington, where the man Johnson, who is the proprietor of two boats, was staying, and asked him if he had delivered any linseed. He replied that he had brought some from Gainsborough, consigned to a Mr Barber of Derby, from a Mr Saxon or Jackson, he did not know which, adding at first that he was a merchant, and then afterwards saying that he did not know what he (Saxon) was. After apprehending Johnson, the officers returned to Derby, where they discovered that a man named Moore, of Shardlow, had bargained with Mr Barber for the purchase of 22 quarters of linseed, at 42s per quarter – 8s under the trade price – and on Moore leaving, Barber asked him for a note of the purchase, but Moore replied, "It's of no use – it's consigned to you". Subsequent inquiries proved that the prisoner, as long ago as Tuesday last, went

to Moore at Shardlow in an intoxicated state, and induced him to write the following note.

November 8 1860

25 qrs of linseed

For Mr Barber of Derby

From Mr Saxon, Hull. To be delivered at Nottingham Station, for Derby

On the following morning (Wednesday), Johnson again went to Moore, and persuaded him to write a note of consignment, which was delivered to the wharfinger at Willington. Johnson was master of a vessel in which was consigned, from a firm at Gainsborough, a large load of linseed for Mr Walker at Nottingham. On the boat's arrival at the latter place, Johnson treated the man who was taking an account of the sacks as the linseed was unloaded and, after the fellow had been made nearly drunk, the twenty two quarters were fraudulently left in the hold, and Johnson's men were instructed to send up half a bag as the last instalment, and to say, "That's all". Mr Hilton asked that the prisoner might be remanded in order to be taken to Nottingham, where the case will be investigated. The remand was granted.

23 November 29 1860

NEWARK BOROUGH POLICE COURT

DISORDERLY CONDUCT **Samuel Lacy**, a boatman, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in the Market Place on the morning of the 26th. He was convicted in the penalty of 6d and 10s expenses or, in default of payment, distress on goods or seven days' imprisonment.

24 December 27 1860

BINGHAM JUSTICE ROOM **William Weedon** and **James Watton** of Nottingham, boatmen, were each committed to the House of Correction at Southwell for ten days, for stealing two sacks of turnips belonging to Mr W Sunday, from a field in the parish of Cotgrave.

25 December 27 1860

LEICESTER

DEATH BY DROWNING On Friday, an inquest was held on the body of John Bradley, which was found in the Grand Junction Canal at the bottom of Navigation Street. The deceased, who was a wheelwright in the employ of Mr Fielding of Belgrave Gate, had disappeared unaccountably for the last three weeks. He was last seen on the 20th ult, when he was in a state of intoxication. The opinion of the witnesses examined was that while in this state he had accidentally fallen into the canal. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

26 January 3 1861

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

SATURDAY – ROPE STEALING **William Atkins**, brought up on a charge of stealing a rope from a boat on the Trent near Collingham, was remanded to Tuesday.

TUESDAY - REMANDED CASE **William Atkinson**, remanded from Saturday last, was again brought up, charged with stealing a piece of rope, the property of **Mr Joseph Turner** of Collingham Wharf. Prisoner had offered the rope for sale to **Mr Pearson**, boatman of Lenton. A letter was handed in from Mr Turner, stating that he could not appear on this day, and asking for the case to be adjourned. Prisoner was remanded until Thursday.

THURSDAY – ROPE STEALING **William Atkin**, residing in Lee's Yard, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing a coil of rope from a boat on the Grantham Canal, the property of **Joseph Turner**. The prosecutor's boat was moored near the North Staffordshire Warehouse at Nottingham, and the rope was carried away on the night of the 13th November. The same evening, prisoner offered it for sale to a boatman at Lenton named **Pearson**. The prisoner was committed for four months with hard labour.

27 January 10 1861

SUSPECTED MURDER AT ERITH At an early hour on the morning of Wednesday last, the body of a man named **William Munns**, who resided at a locality chiefly inhabited by brickmakers and known as Botany Bay, about two miles from the village of Erith, was found in a ditch near the brickfields, under circumstances which leave no doubt that death was caused by unfair means. The deceased's head and face were much cut and bruised, and it was evident that he either fell or was thrown into the ditch before the frost set in on Tuesday night, as he was found completely embedded in the ice. Within a few yards of the ditch the ground, which was frozen over, presented appearances of a severe struggle having taken place between two men, and a considerable quantity of blood and hair was found, the latter exactly corresponding with the hair on the head of the deceased. From inquiries made by the police, it was found that the deceased, who was a bargeman, had been in company with a man of the same class called **James Jeffries** on Tuesday night, at a public house called the Jolly Farmers. Both men left the house together about 11 o'clock, and shortly afterwards they were heard to be quarrelling. Jeffries was yesterday apprehended on the charge, and placed at the bar before Mr Maude at the Woolwich Police Court, when Police-constable Grainey deposed that he took the prisoner into custody, and told him that he was charged with the murder of William Munns, when the prisoner began to cry, and said, "Ah, it's a bad job, but I did not do it". The wife of the deceased man also deposed that the prisoner resides next door to her house, and on Tuesday she heard him open his door between the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock. Other evidence was taken proving that the prisoner and the deceased had been quarrelling at the public house on the night in question. Mr Maude then remanded the prisoner for a week.

28 February 14 1861

DEATHS

SWANWICK At Newark on the 8th instant, aged 19, **Mr William Swanwick**, boatman.

29 February 14 1861

NEWARK

THE LATE DROWNING CASE It will be remembered that in December last a youth named George Beck of Water Lane was drowned in the river, by falling from a plank on the town wharf. He was carried away by the stream and was not found until Thursday morning last, when **James Cartledge** and another boatman, on coming up the river, perceived something of unusual appearance floating in the water near the tubular bridge. On ascertaining that it was a human body they drew it to the side, and tied it fast to a bush while they gave information to the police. The corpse was so far decomposed that identification would have been impossible had it not been for the clothes, from which it was soon known to be the body of the boy Beck. An inquest was held at the Ship Tavern in Water Lane on Friday morning, before Mr R Griffin, borough coroner. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned".

30 February 21 1861

DERBY

WALKER AND ANOTHER v BARBER This case was heard before his Honour Judge Cantrell at the last County Court. The action was brought by the plaintiffs, who are linseed crushers at Nottingham, against the defendant, linseed crusher, Derby, to recover £9 9s 3d as damages for the conversion of 13 cwt of linseed. Mr Coope, solicitor, Nottingham, appeared for the plaintiff ; and Mr Worthington, solicitor, Derby, for the defendant. Mr Coope stated that in October last, the plaintiffs purchased a large quantity of linseed at Archangel, to be delivered at Hull, from whence it was to be sent to Gainsborough ; that a boatman named **Samuel Johnson** was employed by plaintiffs to bring 200 odd quarters of the seed from Gainsborough to Nottingham ; that from information they had received they found the man Johnson had stolen 3 ton 17 cwt of the seed and taken it to Willington, and from thence to the Derby railway station, and that it had been sold by a man named Moore of Shardlow to the defendant, who had fetched away one load of 14 bags of the

seed, and used 13 cwt of it, notwithstanding the caution of the police. The police afterwards fetched the remaining 30 bags of seed from the railway station and 7 ½ bags from the defendant's mill to the Town Hall, where it was weighed. After deducting the weight of the 37 ½ bags from the 3 ton 17 cwt invoiced at the railway station, it was found there was a deficiency of 13 cwt, the value of which the plaintiffs now sought to recover. The defendant had pleaded a set off of £9 18s 2d for bags alleged to be sold with some rapeseed to the plaintiffs in April last. This ought to be tried by a separate action as the bargain was between the plaintiffs' and defendant's assignees. The boatman Johnson had pleaded guilty, and been sentenced to six months' imprisonment and hard labour. After hearing the evidence pro and con, the judge gave a verdict for the plaintiffs for the full amount with costs.

31 April 25 1861

The magisterial inquiry into the death of Mrs Garside of Rochdale terminated on Wednesday, the prisoner John Warburton being committed for trial at the assizes. The gist of the evidence in this somewhat remarkable case may be very briefly stated. Warburton, who had formed an improper connection with Mrs Garside, was seen in the company of a woman in a public house at Lock Bridge, close to the bank of the Rochdale Canal, on the evening of the 1st of the present month. The same night cries were heard near Lock Bridge, and the prisoner was seen struggling in the canal. The boatmen who first heard the sounds of distress thought they could distinguish the voices of two persons – one of them apparently a woman – but Warburton alone was found in the water. He was rescued, and about eight days afterwards, the body of Mrs Garside, who was last seen by her friends on the evening of the 1st inst, was discovered floating in the canal. It bore several marks, but the medical evidence went to show that death had been caused by drowning. No motive was shown for the crime attributed to Warburton, who reserved his defence.

32 May 2 1861

ACCIDENTAL DEATH On Thursday, Mr M Browne, coroner, instituted an enquiry at the Stag and Pheasant public house into the cause of the death of a boy aged 14 years named **Alfred Smith**, the son of **Samuel Smith**, boatman of Hull Street in this town. It appeared from the evidence then adduced that on Tuesday afternoon, deceased and his younger brother were playing at cricket with some young men on the Cricket Ground near the Baths and Wash Houses. Deceased was standing near the wickets, waiting his turn to go in, when a wide ball was sent by the bowler, and the batter suddenly turning round, struck the boy and the ball at the same time. Deceased was knocked to the ground and rendered insensible ; but shortly afterwards recovered and walked home. Upon arrival there, he was examined by Mr Hawksley, surgeon, and was found to have received a cut under the right ear, from which blood was oozing. He died about two hours after the accident. The jury returned a verdict of “Death from a blow on the head during a game at cricket”.

33 May 23 1861

DEATHS

WIDDISON At Newark on the 13th instant, aged 23, **Mr George Widdison**, boatman.

34 July 4 1861

NEWARK COUNTY SESSIONS ROOM **Roger Ridge**, boatman, was convicted under the Trent Navigation Act of allowing his boat horses to trespass upon the Normanton Holme. Fined 7s 6d, damage 3d, costs 12s 6d.

35 August 1 1861

CROWN COURT

ROBBERY FROM A DWELLING **Thomas Fowler**, aged 26, and **Robert Johnson**, same age, canal boatmen, were charged with stealing from the dwelling house of Wright Hodgson at Bugsworth, a quantity of cloth and plush caps, silk handkerchiefs and cotton socks, on the 14th July

last. There was no evidence against Fowler, and the Jury acquitted him, but convicted Johnson, whom his Lordship sentenced to six years' penal servitude.

36 September 5 1861

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

GUNTHORPE : DUCK SLAUGHTER **John Ball** was charged with feloniously killing a duck at Gunthorpe on the 1st of September. Mr Briggs was retained to defend the prisoner. Samuel Kirk of Gunthorpe Ferry deposed that he kept ducks on the Trent side, and on Sunday morning at seven o'clock one of these ducks was killed. Subsequently, witness, with Sergeant Osborne and a man named Widdowson, went to search for the duck, and Osborne went into the boat which the prisoner was driving to search. He did not find it. They searched the Trent and found the duck at the bottom of the river, with an iron bolt tied round its neck, such as is used in a boat. Sergeant Osborne then arrested the prisoner. A lad named Coope stated that he saw the prisoner on the bank with the horse which was drawing the boat. He saw Ball throw a stone at a duck, knock it down, and take it up. A man named Widdowson also saw the occurrence. Sergeant Osborne said he searched the boat, but failed to find the duck, and from information he received the prisoner was arrested by him when the boat had reached Trent Lock. **William Large**, the captain of the boat, gave the prisoner an excellent character. Mr Richard Ratcliffe of Shardlow stated he knew the prisoner from childhood – over fifty years – and he had always upheld an excellent character. The magistrates considered the case proved, and the Rev Chairman said boatmen should be a very honest class of men as they had frequent opportunities of committing offences of this kind. He should be sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

37 September 12 1861

FATAL AND LAMENTABLE OCCURRENCE For some weeks past several of the boats on the Grand Junction Canal have been propelled by steam instead of being drawn by horses, and with proper adaptations of the tunnels &c, there is no doubt that the difficulties hitherto experienced in navigating canals with steamboats are in a fair way of being overcome. There are several tunnels on the canal, one of them being at Agar Town, and another, the one in which the melancholy occurrence which we are about to detail, being close to the Blisworth station on the London and North Western Railway. The canal tunnels are made of brick, and are little, if at all, larger than a sewer. The tunnels are so constructed that horse power is of no use, previous to the introduction of steam the boats being propelled by a process called “legging”. The process is this :- A board is placed out on either side of the boat, and on each boat lies a man who places his feet against the wall of the tunnel and thus pushes the boat along. This system still prevails on boats to which the steam engine has not yet been applied, and as the labour of thus “legging” the boat along is both arduous and disagreeable, the steam engine is welcomed as a very agreeable substitute. The engine, however, is not without its disadvantages for, as the tunnels are long and, as we have said, no larger than sewers, the boatmen are half stifled by the volumes of carbon that are emitted by the low funnel ; coal being burned instead of coke. On Friday night two steamboats entered the tunnel, and before they again emerged from it the people in them were rendered insensible by the fumes from the engines, two of the men being quite dead, and one of them fearfully burnt by falling, while insensible, on the engine.

38 October 21 1861

NEWARK AND RETFORD DISTRICT SESSIONS

STEALING TIMBER AT COLLINGHAM **William Bunny**, 26, boatman, was indicted for stealing ten deal planks, value £3, the property of his master William Hammersley, at North Collingham, on the 23rd July last. He (prisoner) pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr Boden. Mr Stevens held the brief for the prosecution. The prisoner was captain of a steam tug belonging to his master, Mr William Hammersley, timber merchant of Nottingham. The tug used to work between Gainsborough and Nottingham, and prisoner was in charge of it and the cargoes of deals

and other things which were brought by him up the river for the prosecutor. On the night of the 23rd of July last, he and five other men who were with the boats arrived at Collingham between twelve and one o'clock, and there landed ten deal, 22 feet in length, 9 in by 3. Prisoner called up the man at the wharf to give him some rum, and told him the deals were for him if he liked, but he refused to have anything to do with them. The boats went forward to Nottingham, and the planks were afterwards found near the wharf. Information was given which led to the apprehension of the prisoner. The prosecutor and his foreman identified the property, and stated that the prisoner had no authority to sell the deals or to land any part of them on the voyage up the river ; he was the only responsible man on board. The jury returned a verdict of guilty. In passing sentence, the Hon Chairman told the prisoner he had no excuse for defrauding his master, who had paid him well and entrusted a great deal of property to his care. But as this was, as far as the court were aware, his first offence, they hoped it would prove a warning to him through life. The order of the court was that he be confined in Southwell House of Correction for the term of four calendar months, hard labour, the last week in each month solitary.

39 October 29 1861

DARING HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND CAPTURE OF THE ROBBERS It is seldom that we have to record so daring and desperate an outrage as that committed on Thursday night at Trowell, a village within a few miles distance of Nottingham, and still more rarely does it come to pass that the offenders have so speedily fallen into the hands of justice. The sufferer in this instance is a boatman named **Thomas Smith**, residing in Little Hallam, Derbyshire, and such is the desperate nature of the injuries which he has received at the hands of his brutal assailants that his ultimate recovery from his wounds is very questionable.

He came from his home to Nottingham on Thursday, intending to buy a horse, and he took with him a sum of £25 in gold and notes, with some loose silver to defray expenses. The purchase however was not effected. As he was returning home in the evening he went into a public house, and conversed for some time with the landlady in the bar, mentioning, among other matters, the object of his visit to Nottingham. The landlady, a prudent woman, desired him not to talk so freely in the presence of strangers. There were at the time two men named Henry Corden and Samuel Thompson sitting in the bar at some distance off. They heard the entire conversation, and must have been aware from what Mr Smith said that he possessed a sum of money upon his person. After they left, the landlady told Mr Smith that he had been very incautious, and detained him in the house for fifteen or twenty minutes. When he was leaving, she again warned him of his danger, and handed him a short walking stick, for which she said he might have occasion, as she feared he would be attacked. Her fears were only too well grounded. An hour elapsed, and the family had gone to bed, when a faint knock was heard at the door. It was promptly opened, and the unfortunate man staggered in covered completely with blood, and in a state of extreme exhaustion and terror. Restoratives were applied, and Smith, when he became sufficiently invigorated, said that he had been attacked about half a mile from the house by two men, who beat him with hedge stakes about the head and body till he fell, when they took all the money he had from him, and left him bleeding and unconscious on the road. When his senses returned, he crawled to the house and summoned all his energies to knock at the door. He had no doubt, he said, that his assailants were the two men who had been in the bar. With a promptitude which cannot be too highly praised, the people of the public house sent information of the outrage to Mr Hodson, the superintendent of county police at Ilkeston, by whom a constable was dispatched at four o'clock on Friday morning to Nottingham, to communicate the particulars to Mr Superintendent Palethorpe. The latter most effective officer dispatched Sergeant Hulse and other members of the force in search of the ruffians, and as there was reason to believe the fellows had not come into Nottingham, Mr Palethorpe proceeded to Trowell. On his arrival he ascertained, in reply to his inquiries, that one of the two men who had been in the public house during the time Mr Smith was speaking with the landlady, had been seen emerging from a pig sty not long previous, and that his companion had spent at least part of the night with a young woman with whom he carried on an illicit intercourse, and whose house he was

in the habit of visiting occasionally. Several of the inhabitants volunteered to go in pursuit of the suspected highwaymen, who were now discerned making their way across the fields. An exciting chase ensued, and after a run of about a mile the fugitives were surrounded and captured. Mr Palethorpe took them to the public house, where they were identified, and then conveyed them to Nottingham. The men were brought up before the magistrates at the Shire Hall on Saturday, but Mr Palethorpe required a remand, as the injured man was not in a condition to be produced to give testimony. The application was conceded, and the prisoners were sent back to their cells, care being taken to prevent them holding any communication with each other. One of the hedge stakes with which the wounds were inflicted on Mr Smith is in Mr Palethorpe's custody. It is a formidable weapon, and the wonder is that the unfortunate man was not killed outright. The conduct of all concerned in the detection and apprehension of the prisoners in this instance is entitled to the highest praise. The case turns upon the identification of the prisoners, but little doubt can possibly be entertained that very conclusive proofs will be adduced, although, of course, pending the decision of the Bench, we cannot assert that they were the actual perpetrators of this daring outrage.

40 November 12 1861

THE LATE BRUTAL ASSAULT AND HIGHWAY ROBBERY AT TROWELL At the Shire Hall on Saturday last, before Lord Belper and other magistrates, Henry Cordon and Samuel Thompson, the two men charged with brutally assaulting and robbing **Thomas Smith** of £25 on the night of the 24th October, were again placed in the dock. Mr Briggs appeared for Thompson ; Cordon was undefended.

Thomas Smith, the prosecutor, said : I live at Little Hallam in the county of Derby. I am a boatman and grazier. On the 24th October I came to Radford for the purpose of purchasing a horse. I had about £45 in my possession – within a shilling or two. The money comprised five £5 notes and 19 sovereigns in gold, and some loose silver. I was quite sober when I left Radford. I left about six o'clock at night. I had to return home through Trowell, and Mr George Holmes keeps the Barley Mow beer house there. I called at Holmes's house. It would be about seven o'clock when I went into the house. I had three threepennyworths of gin there. It would be near upon 11 o'clock when I left his house. I was quite sober. The reason I stayed was in consequence of its being a very wet night. I sat in the tap room. When first I went in the house there was no company in. A short time afterwards William Cordon and a young man also came in. Many persons subsequently came in the house. I recognise the prisoner Henry Cordon as being in the room. Some person pointed out this man (Cordon) and said he was his nephew. I saw Samuel Thompson (the other prisoner) afterwards come in the room. I made a remark in the room that I had a long way to go, and one of the prisoners said he had to go to Pig Stye Park in Ilkeston, and he would go with me. The prisoners appeared to know each other : I saw them conversing together. If I recollect rightly both the prisoners left the house about half an hour before I went away. Before the prisoners left the house, I had said in the hearing of both of them that I had to go to Little Hallam. During the time I was in the public house, I had some conversation with a Mr White concerning a horse. Cordon would be enabled to hear our talk. I told Mr White I had been about purchasing a horse, but had not bought one. When I had proceeded on my way home about 400 yards, I was walking on the turnpike road and met a man with something over his shoulder. I was about saying "Good night", and had uttered "good" when I received a blow upon my face. The blow was from a stick, and cut across my right eye. The stick broke across my face. I was knocked down by the blow and almost rendered insensible. I could feel persons searching my pockets, but was so blinded by the blow and the blood which flowed from my face that I could not see anyone. The person who struck me down afterwards beat me badly and then left me. I continued to cry out for help, and the person then returned and beat me again. I was beat much about the head and kicked. I was badly kicked on the breast bone, and on the back of the head. In my pocket I had a certificate of five shares of the Ilkeston Waterworks, also the envelope in which it was sent to me. The envelope was stiff paper, and I heard it rustle when taken out of my pocket. It was taken out on the second visit of the person who knocked me down. The portion of envelope is the same as that taken from my pocket. I also

had a certificate similar to that produced. The notes - £25 – were in my breast side pocket. Two of the notes were of the Derby Bank. The gold was in my right hand trousers pocket. When I got up again I returned to Mr Holmes's, and then missed my money. The notes only (£25) were taken from me. After the first attack, when the person had taken away the notes, I recollected my gold ; and I then placed that in my stocking, and also my watch. I could not say how many persons returned on the second attack – whether one or more. I got up after the second attack, and walked until I reached the church wall, and there I found out where I was. I did not know before I reached the wall whether I was on my way to Ilkeston or not. Before the blow fell I recognised Cordon as the man I had seen in the public house. From that time until today I have not seen Cordon again. I saw him today in custody in the prison yard at the Shire Hall. I saw him among six or seven other men. Nothing had been said to me about Cordon being present. I picked him out as being the man who had struck me. Upon returning to Mr Holmes's, I told Mr and Mrs Holmes that the man who struck me was the same as had been seated beside William Cordon. William Cordon was the man who had called the prisoner Cordon his nephew.

Cross-examined by Mr Briggs : I did not see Thompson after he went out of the public house. I did not know him. The day before the robbery I had been at Ripley fair, and had taken my money with me there. I had not called at Holmes's on my way to Radford. At Radford I had some drink at Mr Robinson's, the Thistle. I had to stay there until the horse I had gone to look at was brought by its owner. The prisoner and his uncle, William Cordon, came in Holmes's together. William Cordon works at Stanton iron works. When I left Holmes's there were two persons in the room. Cordon and Thompson left the house together. William Cordon, the uncle, had left the house some time before the prisoners. I also saw Thompson in the prison yard and recognised him as being in the public house on the night of the robbery. It had left off raining when I went out of Holmes's, and the moon shone a little. The fires from Stanton-by-Dale ironworks light up the roads in that locality very much. When I was at Radford I had two farthings given to me in change for ale, but after the robbery they were missing.

George Holmes, publican of Trowell, said : I recollect Mr Smith coming to my house on the night of the 24th of October. He came about seven o'clock, and left about 11 ; he was perfectly sober. I remember seeing Cordon and Thompson enter the room where prosecutor was sitting. I know them both. Thompson went in and out of the house several times, and once whistled loud outside. When he came in again, he said they had not come. Both the prisoners left together about 20 minutes before Smith left. From something that my wife said to me before Smith went out, and after the two men had gone, I put on my slippers. I went out of the back door of the house and looked down the road in the direction that Smith had to go. I saw the prisoners standing on the footpath about 20 yards from my house talking together. My suspicions being aroused, I went near to the end of the house, and the prisoners then moved on to the middle of the road. Our house is by the road side leading to Ilkeston. The last I saw of the prisoners was as they were going down the Ilkeston Road. Smith went down the same road. Smith returned to my house the same night and stated what had happened to him ; also mentioning the name of the man who sat with Mr Cordon. I saw a large quantity of blood on the spot where the prosecutor said he had been robbed. In consequence of prosecutor having said something about Cordon, there was a great tumult in the village the same evening. On the next morning I went in the fields in search of the prisoners, but found they had already been captured. I told them what they were charged with, and they said they were willing to go if that was all they were suspected of.

Mary Ann Holmes, wife of the preceding witness, said : On the night of the 20th of October, I saw Mr Smith and the two prisoners in our house. I saw Thompson go out of the house twice or thrice. I also believe Cordon went out of the house. I saw them after they had left the house. Both prisoners were standing some yards from our house. Thompson was standing against the gate, and Cordon near the end of the house. They would be about ten yards apart. In a few minutes after I saw them, Mr Smith went away. I heard some whistling outside of the house. Cordon was then in the house. From what I had seen I said something to my husband, and when Mr Smith was going away I lent him a stick to protect himself with. Mr Smith went away about 11 o'clock, and returned

within half an hour. He was in a dreadful state upon his return. His face was covered with blood and his head fearfully cut. Mr Smith said a little stiff man had done it, and pointed out where he had sat in the room. I knew where Cordon sat in the room. He had sat in the place which Smith pointed out. After the prosecutor went away, we locked the door, and upon his return he demanded admission, but I refused to let him in until he told me who he was. I noticed that one of his trousers legs was up, and soon afterwards I saw Mr Goodacre, at prosecutor's request, take 19 sovereigns from the prosecutor's stocking.

Elizabeth Dakin, wife of William Dakin, labourer, said : I live at Trowell and know Mr Holmes's public house. My house is nearer to Ilkeston than Mr Holmes's. I know the two prisoners, and have known them about three years. I remember the night of the 20th ult. I was in my bedroom about 11 o'clock. I heard a whistle in the road, and in consequence of the noise I looked out of the window and saw the prisoners passing. They were going on the way to Ilkeston.

Cross-examined by Mr Briggs : My house is two miles from Ilkeston. I heard them talking together, and am convinced it was the prisoners. It was a very light night.

Abraham Bates of Trowell, labourer, deposed : I lodge at the house of the last witness. I remember hearing of the robbery of Mr Smith. I was up early on Friday morning, the morning after the robbery. I know a person named Beardsley, and where his garden is. I was near his garden at half past five in the morning and met the two prisoners. They were on the footway and walking together. I spoke to them and asked where they had been. Thompson said they had been to Kimberley Wakes. I had heard before then of the robbery of Mr Smith, and knew that the two prisoners were suspected of the robbery. I helped to take Smith home, from Trowell to Little Hallam. When I saw prisoners near Beardsley's garden, I hastened to Holmes's in search of assistance to apprehend them. We could not find them on our return.

John Hudson, superintendent of the police at Ilkeston, said : On receiving information of the robbery I went, in company with Mr Holmes, to the spot where the robbery was said to have taken place. I found the prosecutor's hat crushed as now produced, also the hedge stake. There was a great quantity of blood (3 or 4 pints) on the ground. The hedge stake was broken in three places.

Cross-examined by Mr Briggs : Thompson is a discharged soldier. I know he has been very ill and in a doctor's hands. I was not aware he had ulceration of the bowels. I placed an officer to watch his house immediately after receiving information of the robbery.

Mr Smith recalled : The hat produced is my property. I lost it on the night of the robbery. Mrs Holmes lent me a walking stick. The one produced is the same she lent me. She said nothing to me when leaving her house about defending myself.

Bartholomew Wilson, agent to the Ilkeston Gas and Water Company, said : A short time before the 20th October I sent a circular to Mr Smith in an envelope. The address on the portion of the envelope produced is in my handwriting.

Superintendent Palethorpe deposed : I received the hat, rail and walking stick now produced from Mr Hudson. I know the place in Trowell described by the witness Bates as Beardsley's garden. On the Sunday after the robbery I went there. On the 25th, the morning after the robbery, the prisoners Thompson and Cordon were delivered into my custody, in the fields at Trowell. Whilst Thompson was in custody, he voluntarily made a statement to me. The statement was made on the Sunday morning following the robbery ; Cordon was not present. Thompson said, "I am innocent, and Cordon knows it, if he will only speak". I asked him, "Why, how should he know?", and Thompson answered, "He does, He told me that he had knocked the man down, and taken threepence farthing from him the night before". I asked him when he told him this, and he said, "The next morning". He further remarked, "When we came out of the public house Cordon went towards his uncle's, and I went down with one of Beaton's girls to their house, and slept on the sofa. The following morning Mr Beaton called me and said Cordon was at the gate and wanted me. I had his dog and bundle, and I went out to him. Cordon asked me to have a walk, and he then told me all the circumstances". I inquired if Cordon had mentioned what man it was, and Thompson answered, "Cordon said it was the man that was in the public house the night before. He (Cordon) showed me a farthing and asked me if it was a sovereign. I looked at it and said it was a farthing. Cordon then

threw the farthing away". I asked Thompson if he had seen anything of a pocket book or any papers, and he said, "No". I again asked if he saw no papers at all. He answered that, "Cordon had a paper like a letter, which he looked at and crumpled it up and then stepped up to Beardsley's garden, scratched up a bit of dirt, and covered it over with soil. Cordon, when covering it up, said, "That's how I serve such b---- as those"". Thompson afterwards said that Cordon had looked at his clothes to see if there was any blood upon him, and had rubbed some soil over a patch on his right leg. I had previously examined Cordon's trousers, and found some slight traces of blood. Cordon said the blood came from a rabbit's head. On Sunday I examined Beardsley's garden bank, and found the envelope and circular produced, in the position pointed out by Thompson.

This was the whole of the evidence offered for the prosecution.

Both prisoners pleaded not guilty.

Cordon asserted that the whole of the statement made by Thompson to Superintendent Palethorpe was a fabrication, and entirely void of truth. He (Cordon) had slept on the night of the robbery in a hut which he had pointed out to Palethorpe after being taken into custody, and Thompson had stayed the night at Beaton's. Upon calling on Thompson next morning, it was for the purpose of going rabbiting.

Mr Briggs, on behalf of Thompson, was proceeding to address the Bench for the defence, when he was interrupted by the Clerk, and informed (after a short deliberation by the magistrates) that it was considered there were sufficient grounds against both prisoners to warrant them in committing the prisoners for trial at the forthcoming assizes.

The prisoners were then committed in due form.

Bail was applied for on behalf of Thompson, but was refused.

41 December 13 1861

UTTERING BASE COIN AT LENTON **Stewart Bosworth**, a Trent boatman known on the river as "Stew" went on Friday last into the Boat Inn, Lenton, and called for a pint of beer which was served, and for which he tendered in payment a half crown, received the change, and walked off. Shortly after his departure the coin was found to be suspicious. He has been apprehended.

42 January 10 1862

SHOP LIFTING A young woman named **Elizabeth Dilson** was charged by Constable Horspool with stealing from the shop of Mr Sutton, draper, Chapel Bar, a skirt, value 8s 6d. Prisoner, it appeared, came into Mr Sutton's shop about two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon and asked to be served with some skirts, which were shown to her, and whilst Mr Sutton was busy with another customer, she contrived to conceal one of the skirts under her shawl and walk off with it. Mr Sutton followed her out of the shop and taxed her with the robbery, which she at first denied, but afterwards pulled the skirt out from under her shawl and begged Mr Sutton to let her off, which, however, he refused to do, and gave her into the custody of Constable Horspool. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and begged the magistrates to deal leniently with her. She lived at Stapleford, where her father was a boatman, but now out of work. The Bench sentenced her to three months' hard labour. She had been previously convicted.

43 March 21 1862

BANKRUPTS **J Would**, Tatter Hall, Lincolnshire, boatman, March 26 at the County Court, Horncastle.

44 March 21 1862

DEATHS

PEARSON At Worksop on the 17th inst, aged 7 years, George, son of **Mr William Pearson**, boatman.

45 May 23 1862

DEATHS

WOODWARD At Fiskerton, on the 16th inst, aged 44, **Mr James Woodward**, boatman.

46 September 19 1862

ACCIDENT AT THE BOTTOM LOCKS On Thursday morning, **John Rice**, 16 years of age, employed by his brother **Thomas Rice** of Gainsborough as boatman, was coming up the river with a barge, and while waiting at the bottom locks for another boat to go through first, he was throwing the ropes into the water to prevent them being trapped by the boat, when he put his hand too low, and it was crushed between the lock side and the boat. The whole of his hand was shockingly mangled, so that he had to be taken to the hospital at Newark. The thumb mortified, and it was feared that in order to save his life it would be needful to amputate the hand. It is now hoped that the hand may be spared, but the sufferer lies in a very precarious state and it is impossible at present to say what the result will be.

47 December 5 1862

A BRIDEGROOM DROWNED A painful case of drowning has just been brought to light at Masborough. Frederick Stinger, a young man employed as clerk by Mr Widdowson in the Masborough Steam Corn Mill, had purposed to enter the happy state of wedlock on the 27th ult. He visited his intended at Parkgate the previous evening, and parted with her in excellent spirits. Not arriving at his home as usual, inquiries were made for him, and information of his absence at once conveyed to the Police Station. It was feared, in consequence of an unfortunate circumstance, that he had enlisted, as he had once or twice threatened to do so. All attempts to ascertain his whereabouts proved unavailing, and gloomy forebodings as to his fate began to arise which have, unfortunately, proved too true. On Tuesday morning, as **George Squires**, boatman of Masborough, was propelling his boat on the canal by means of a boat hook, the latter caught in something heavy at the bottom of the canal. He pulled it to the surface, and found it to be the body of a man in an advanced state of decomposition. Assistance having been procured, the body was conveyed to the Plough Inn, Greasborough, where it was speedily identified as that of the missing young man.

48 January 9 1863

DEATHS

STOKES At Bingham on the 2nd inst, aged 75, **Mr John Stokes**, boatman, late of Ratcliff-upon-Trent.

49 February 20 1863

BINGHAM POLICE STATION **Thomas Freestone**, boatman of Widmerpool, apprehended by Superintendent Horne on a charge of stealing wearing apparel at Cropwell Bishop, was committed for twenty one days to the Southwell House of Correction.

50 April 10 1863

HORRIBLE DEATH OF A CHILD An inquest was held at the General Hospital on Saturday, before Mr Coroner Browne, on the body of **J Stephen Greenway**, aged six years. Deceased was the son of a boatman employed in carrying tar to the Awsworth pitch works. Last Saturday week, while the men were at work, the deceased was playing about the yard with a dog. He ran down a plank – placed for the purpose of wheeling pitch up a large heap – with the dog holding by his frock with its mouth. When at the bottom of the plank the dog loosed its hold, and the deceased ran forward in a tank of hot pitch, which had been “drawn off” boiling two hours before. The men at work in the yard saw the child fall in, and ran at once to his assistance. He was taken out, the hot pitch still sticking to and severely scalding his legs and arms, and when his clothes were taken off the flesh clung to them. He was carried the same day to the General Hospital, where he lingered hopelessly until Thursday last. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

51 May 22 1863

ACCIDENT On Monday, a boatman named **George Cartwright**, who lives at Islington, while unloading a boat in the Nottingham Canal, fell from the plank and fractured his right leg below the knee. He was taken to the General Hospital, and is progressing favourably.

52 September 4 1863

NEWARK

ROBBERY BY A BOATMAN At the Borough Police Court on the 27th ult, before the Mayor and J Handley Esq MP, **John Priestley** was charged with stealing 5 st 4 lbs of linseed cake, value 7s 6d, the property of Mr Christopher Johnson, on the 22nd of August. The prisoner was apprehended by Police-constable Topps of the county force, and on Wednesday was transferred to the borough, owing to the robbery having been committed in the parish of Stoke, within the jurisdiction of the borough magistrates. About ten o'clock on Tuesday night the 25th ult, Police-constable Topps met the prisoner going over the Trent Bridge into the county, with a bag on his back. He asked him what he had got, and where he was going to. Prisoner said he had got some linseed cake, which he was taking to Mr Humphrey at the mill. He first said he was going to the steam mill, then the water mill, and next that he did not know whose mill. He said Humphrey was the captain of a boat which had just come up the river, but he could not tell where the boat was. In reply to further inquiry, he said he had brought the cake from Poole's wharf. The officer, knowing that the wharf had been closed some hours and that Mr Poole had left several months ago, took the prisoner into custody on a charge of stealing the cake. On the way to the police station he threw the bag down and refused to carry it any further. --- Barratt, foreman to Mr Christopher Johnson, for Ragsdale's wharf on the Trent side, said the prisoner was in Mr Johnson's employ at the time the offence was alleged to have been committed. The boat with which he travelled brought ten tons of cake from Hull on the previous Saturday for delivery at the wharf. The full weight was delivered from the boat. The cake was of the same quality and brand as that produced by the police. After the usual caution the prisoner pleaded guilty, and said nothing in extenuation. The witness Barratt said the prisoner had been in the employ of Mr Ragsdale and his present master the last five or six years, and until this occurrence had borne a very good character. There had been no reason to suspect him or complain of his conduct in any way. Sentenced to one month's imprisonment, the first and last week hard labour.

53 September 11 1863

DEATHS At Fiskerton, on the 4th inst, Herbert, infant son of **Mr William Howard**, boatman.

54 December 25 1863

SERIOUS ROBBERY OF HOSIERY At the Shire Hall on Wednesday, before Lord Belper and other magistrates, a middle aged man of respectable appearance named William Atkin was brought up in custody, charged with stealing a quantity of hosiery, the property of Messrs Hine, Mundella and Co, hosiery manufacturers of Station Street in this town. Mr Lees defended the prisoner, and Mr Everall appeared to prosecute. The first witness called was Shadrach Brewer, who stated that he was in the employ of Mr Joel Kirk of Sileby, Leicestershire, and that by the direction of his master, he packed up a bag of hosiery, which was directed and dispatched to Messrs Hine, Mundella and Co at Nottingham. The bag was sent by train. Mr Joel Kirk was then called, and he stated that he wrote the direction on the bag in which the hosiery was sent off, and the writing was very plain. Benjamin Trustwell, station master of Sileby, said that on the 16th of December he received a bag, containing something for Messrs Hine, Mundella and Co. He gave it to the guard of the train to Kegworth, for Nottingham. Frederick Toll, guard of the 5.44 train, said that he received a bag into his custody on the 16th of December for Messrs Hine, Mundella and Co of Nottingham. He delivered it to Thornhill, the porter at Kegworth, for another train to Nottingham. It had then the address upon it. Samuel Thornhill, porter at Kegworth station, said that on the 16th of December, in the evening, he saw the porter at the Kegworth station. He was on the platform when the train from

Sibley arrived, and received a bag to go to Nottingham by the 11 p m goods train. He laid it on the platform, and sometime afterwards, shortly after the prisoner had left, he missed the parcel, and could not trace it. He saw the prisoner leaving the station with a bag, which he then thought was his own. Prisoner had asked him just before where the station master was. Witness replied that he had gone away a short time. Prisoner then asked him if he would have a pint of beer. Witness went to the public house near the station and called for a pint of ale, expecting prisoner to follow him, as he said he would. Prisoner, however, did not come, and on his again coming out of the house, he saw the prisoner leaving the station with a bag on his shoulder. It was a few minutes after six that he missed the bag directed to "Hine and Mundella". He gave information to the station master. Prisoner had treated him on previous occasions ; but he had to pay for the ale himself on this occasion. In cross-examination, he said that the prisoner travelled regularly twice a week between Nottingham and Kegworth ; and that his own luggage was composed of bags, which he (prisoner) carried from the platform to the station yard, where he had a cart waiting for him. James Baker said that he resided at Hathern, and had been in the habit for some years of meeting the prisoner at the Kegworth station with his pony and cart, to carry his luggage to his house at Hathern. He met him on the night in question at the station, and saw him carry two bags or bundles and place them in the cart. He then went to get a glass of beer ; and observed when driving home that there were three bags and a basket in the cart. Prisoner stopped to drink at the "Three Crowns", and witness drove on to his own house. The bundles were fetched away by the prisoner's men the same night. He did not know anything was wrong until the police called him up about one o'clock the next morning. John Anthony, station master at Kegworth, said that on the night in question he observed the bag addressed to Messrs Hine and Mundella on the platform. It was larger and of a lighter colour than those he afterwards saw the prisoner bring with him. He saw the prisoner leave the station with a bag and a basket, and put them into a cart in the station yard. Shortly afterwards he saw the prisoner carrying out of the station another and larger bag. He did not then suspect anything. Afterwards, when he was told by the porter that the bag for Nottingham was gone, he took a police officer with him and went to the prisoner's house. Prisoner appeared to be in bed as they had to wait some time. He came to the door undressed. Witness said they had come for that bundle he had taken away from the station. He replied, "I brought nothing away but my own". Witness asked what bag it was he met him with, and prisoner replied, "My own, to be sure". Witness asked to see the bags he had brought away. Prisoner, having dressed himself, took them to his shop, and witness saw two bags similar to the ones he had seen prisoner carry from the station. He examined the bag supposed to have been stolen, and the officer asked him how he came by them – meaning the hosiery they found in it – and the prisoner replied, "I don't know anything about them ; if I have brought them, it's by mistake". There was no direction upon it when they found it in the prisoner's shop. Prisoner begged not to be taken into custody, saying he would make it right in the morning. Witness had been at the Kegworth station since February last, and had never known a similar case before. PC Burton corroborated the evidence of the last witness as to the visit to prisoner's house. The bag found there contained only 22 lbs of hosiery, and included 18 dozen of socks. Prisoner said to him that similar mistakes had often occurred during the old station master's time. Benjamin Harper, porter, Nottingham, said that on the 16th December, he carried *two* bags from the Black's Head, Broad Marsh, to the Midland Railway station, for the prisoner. **Joseph Smith**, a boatman living at Loughborough, proved that on the 18th inst, when in his boat on the river Soar about a mile from Hathern, he observed something in the water, and on reaching it found it to be a bag containing a quantity of hosiery. It was then wet, but he had it dried, and shortly afterwards delivered it to PC Burton. PC Burton proved the receipt of the hosiery found in the Soar. It weighed 24 or 25 lbs. Shadrach Brewer, recalled, said that when delivered to the railway company, the bag for Messrs Hine and Mundella weighed 52 lbs. Mr Kirk, from a general examination of the goods, identified them as those sent to Messrs Hine and Mundella. Mr Lees asked if the Bench were satisfied as to whether there was sufficient evidence for sending the prisoner for trial. If so, it was useless for him now to call witnesses for the defence. The Magistrates were of opinion that there was sufficient evidence ; and the prisoner was then formally committed for trial to the next

sessions.

55 January 8 1864

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE QUARTER SESSIONS

ROBBING THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY William Atkin, framework knitter, bailed on examination, was indicted for having stolen on the 16th December last, at Kegworth station, eighteen dozen of socks, value 40s, forty pounds weight of merino, value 80s and a bag, value 1s, the property of the Midland Railway Company. The prisoner pleaded "not guilty". Mr Bristowe prosecuted, and Mr Mellor defended the prisoner. From the evidence adduced, it appeared that on the 16th December last, Shadrach Bronatt, a servant of Mr Joel Kirk, hosier, Sileby, placed 18 dozen pair cotton socks and a quantity of merino into a bag, and having tied it up and attached to it a stout ticket addressed to Messrs Hine, Mundella and Co, Nottingham, he took it to the station at Sileby, and there delivered it to Mr Preston, the Station Master. Mr Preston received the bag, weighing 52 lbs, and the porter, George Coates, gave it to the guard of the 4.30 train from Sileby to Kegworth. John Towle, the guard, proved its safe delivery at Kegworth. They arrived at Kegworth at 6.10. Samuel Thornhill, porter at Kegworth, received the bag, addressed to Hine Mundella and Co, from the last witness, and placed it underneath the up side shed. Some minutes afterwards the train from Nottingham came up, and he saw prisoner get out. He did not see what he had with him. He saw him go across the line and up the steps. The cart of a man named Baker was there. He saw prisoner place something in that cart. Directly afterwards prisoner asked him where the station master was, and witness said he was engaged. Prisoner then asked if he would have a pint of beer, and witness went to the inn and ordered the ale. On coming out, he saw prisoner with a bag on his back going up the steps on to the road. It was about the size of the Hine and Mundella's bag. A few minutes afterwards he missed that bag, and informed the station master. James Baker, a nail maker at Hathern, met the prisoner at Kegworth Station on the day in question. Prisoner brought a flag basket and afterwards two other bags. They then drove away. He left prisoner at the "Three Crowns" and drove home. He took nothing out of the cart, and went at once to bed. He was awakened in the night by the police, but he did not know what became of the bags. Mrs Baker, the wife of the last witness, proved that in her husband's cart there were two large bags, a small bag containing bread, and a flag basket. Mr Atkin came to fetch the bags away about half an hour after her husband arrived. Thomas Bennett said he went with prisoner to Baker's, and helped him to carry away the bags. John Atkin, station master at Kegworth, said that on the night in question he saw the bag for Hine and Mundella lying on the platform under a shed. He saw the prisoner arrive. He had some bags of a lighter colour with him. Shortly afterwards he saw prisoner coming out of the station yard with a large bag on his shoulder. When Thornhill told him the bag was gone, he took a police officer with him, and went to the prisoner's house. They saw prisoner, and asked him for the bag he had taken away from the station. He said he had taken none but his own. He said the bag witness saw on his shoulders was his own. PC Burton asked him to let them in. He did so. In the shop they found the missing bag, with the address tied loosely on it. It was not so bulky either. They asked him if he knew anything about it, and he said, "No, he did not ; he must have made a mistake". Witness then gave him into custody. Police-constable Mark Burton corroborated the last witness in reference to the interview. He produced a bag and contents he had received from a man named Smith. **John Smith**, a boatman, proved that on the 16th December, when on the river Soar, he found the bag produced and the contents in the stream near Hathern. There was about 25 lb weight of material in the bag. This concluded the case for the prosecution. Mr Mellors then addressed the jury for the defence. He said that it was purely a mistake, that similar mistakes had often occurred before ; and that the prisoner's character ought to place him beyond the suspicion of felonious intention. He would call witnesses to prove that these mistakes had occurred before, and also to speak to his character. John Stubbs, a man employed by the prisoner, said that he used to fetch prisoner's luggage from the station, and had many times taken a wrong bag by mistake. It was very easy to make such a mistake. Edward Britton remembered mistakes having been made amongst the bags at Kegworth Station. Mr Lambert, hosier, Nottingham, said he had known

prisoner 16 years. Had had constant dealings with him, and had always found him straightforward and honest. Mr Bristowe then replied, contending that the evidence went to show that the whole thing had been effected too cleverly and designedly for it to be a mistake. Mr Sherbrooke then summed up. He said that the whole matter in dispute rested upon the question whether the taking of the bag was a mistake or not, and to that question they must mainly turn their attention. The jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty", and the prisoner was discharged.

56 March 4 1864

BINGHAM

JUSTICE ROOM FEBRUARY 25 John Tagg and Joseph Fairbank were charged by Alfred Chandler, gamekeeper to T B Hilyard Esq of Flintham, with shooting a rabbit on land in the parish of Flintham. It appeared that the prisoners were boatmen entrusted with a cargo on the river Trent, and when opposite to College Wood in the parish of Flintham, the boat was neared to the Flintham Shore and the prisoner Tagg fired off a gun and shot at a rabbit which he killed. The Bench were of opinion that Fairbank was equally guilty, and they were each fined 40s and costs, and in default of payment to be committed to Southwell House of Correction for two calendar months.

57 March 11 1864

CHRISTMAS ADJOURNED QUARTER SESSIONS

CHARGE OF STEALING A BOAT LINE AT BURTON JOYES William Davison, 30, boatman, was indicted for stealing a boat line, valued at twenty shillings, the property of William Hudson, at Burton Joyce on the 3rd of February last. Mr Lushington prosecuted and Mr Yeatman defended the prisoner. From the evidence given, it appeared that a boat was lying in the canal near Burton Joyce, and the prisoner was proved to have entered the boat and carried the line away. It was also proved that he sold the rope, or one very similar, to a man named Douglas, living in Carter Gate in this town. Mr Yeatman made a most ingenious defence for the prisoner, contending that the evidence was not strong enough to warrant the jury in finding him guilty, remarking that even the owner of the rope could not positively swear that the rope sold to Douglas was the one which had been stolen from the boat. The evidence he did not hesitate to say was almost entirely circumstantial, and he earnestly hoped the jury would return a verdict of not guilty. The Chairman then summed up the evidence very minutely, after which, the jury having consulted, returned a verdict of not guilty, and the prisoner was discharged.

58 April 1 1864

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM John Richards, a boatman, was charged with assaulting John Hemmington on the 17th ult at Beeston, and was fined 15s.

59 April 15 1864

NEWARK AND RETFORD DISTRICT SESSIONS

ROBBERY OF LINSEED CAKE AT HAWTON William Patchitt, 20, boatman, was charged with feloniously breaking and entering the warehouse of Messrs Robinson and Wilson, and stealing therefrom twelve linseed cakes and one bag, value 8s 6d, at Hawton on the 12th January last. He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr Cave. Mr Stephen held the brief for the prosecution. The facts were very simple. The warehouse was broken into about the middle of the day, and shortly afterwards the prisoner was seen carrying a bag which appeared to contain oil cake, down to a boat where he lived. James Peet, a clerk in prosecutor's employ, seeing prisoner going towards the boat with it, said to him, "Toit you've got some cake". Prisoner said, "Hold your noise, you fool". Witness afterwards saw him apparently placing the cake in a part of the boat where the bag was found next morning, after information of the robbery had been given to Superintendent Bexon. The cake was not in the bag, but there was sufficient left in to show that it had been used for cake. Mr Cave addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner, and directed particular attention to the fact that the robbery was alleged to have been committed in open daylight, and the witness Peet did not give

the information so promptly as might reasonably have been expected, if the account he had given was correct. Guilty. Sentenced to three calendar months' hard labour, the last week in each month solitary confinement.

60 May 27 1864

EXTRAORDINARY ROBBERY IN BIRMINGHAM At the Birmingham Police Court, before Messrs Kinnersley, Poncia and Phillips, John White, a hardened looking young fellow of unfavourable antecedents, was charged with stealing a horse, the property of Mr Abraham Timmins of Oldbury, and with robbing a man of the name of **John Shepherd** of the sum of 2d. The case was of a peculiarly desperate character. On Thursday last the prosecutor Shepherd, who is a boatman, started from Oldbury in charge of a horse and boat belonging to his employer, Mr Timmins, to go to Birmingham. On getting to Smethwick, the boat was "boarded" by the prisoner and another man, who requested to ride to Birmingham. The prosecutor allowed them. When they had got on the borough side of Lee Bridge, the prisoner asked the prosecutor for some money to get beer. The prosecutor told them he had only 2d. The prisoner would not believe him, and laid hold of him to search him. A struggle ensued in which the prosecutor's clothes were literally torn to pieces. His watch pocket containing the 2d alluded to was cut from his trousers with a knife. When the struggle was over, prisoner tried to throw him into the water, but he landed on the canal bank, and proceeded to put his clothes a little to rights. The prisoners meanwhile went forwards with the boat, and when they had got fifty yards, they untackled the horse, and drove him towards Birmingham. The prosecutor, who thought they might be taking it to the stables, did not attempt to follow, being ashamed of his tattered condition. The prisoners took the horse straight to the fair, and sold him to a horse dealer of the name of John Parkins for 30s. White alone could afterwards be found, the other prisoner having escaped. He was committed to take his trial at the next Borough Sessions.

61 July 8 1864

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

STEALING HAY A boatman named **James Pepper** was charged with stealing a quantity of hay, the property of Mr William Pachitt, at Sutton Bonnington. The prisoner was seen by a constable to take the hay from a field standing by the canal side. The prisoner took the hay and put it in a boat in which he was riding. The prisoner did not deny the charge, and the Bench sent him to prison for one month with hard labour.

62 September 16 1864

NEWARK COUNTY COURT

GEO SEALS v ROBERT SEALS, BOATMAN Defendant did not appear. Mr Ashley conducted the case for plaintiff, who stated the particulars of the amount claimed, £5 3s 6d for work done and money laid down. Judgement for the full amount, to be paid by four shillings a month.

63 October 24 1864

LEICESTERSHIRE MIDSUMMER SESSIONS **John Pew**, 14, boatboy, and **George Harper**, 18, boatman, were charged with indecently abusing Eliza Smith, a girl under the age of 12 years, at North Kilworth, on the 14th day of June 1864, and George Harper with unlawfully aiding and abetting the said John Pew to commit the said offence. The case being of too serious a nature to try at the sessions, the chairman adjourned it to the assizes.

64 December 9 1864

SUSPECTED MURDER AT HUDDERSFIELD On Friday night an inquest was held at the Wharf Inn, Huddersfield, touching the death of a woman unknown, whose body was found in the canal at Aspley, close by the Huddersfield basin. The body was discovered by a boatman named **Joshua Firth**, who was steering a boat when he saw something in the water which, on turning over with a boat hook, he discovered to be the body of a woman. It was brought to the bank, and Police-

constable Moore assisted to get it out. The application of water to the face of the deceased showed that she was a young woman, and that her face was disfigured. The body was removed to the Wharf Inn, and then it was found that the deceased was dressed in a dark silk bonnet trimmed with lace and crepe, a Coburg stuff dress of dark material, patched under the arms ; a quilted petticoat, white knit cotton stockings, and Balmoral boots, which had been soled with wood and shod with iron. In a pocket of her petticoat were found a comb, a short pipe, a thimble, a piece of soap and an onion. This led to the inference that the woman was on tramp ; and her clogs appear to be of Lancashire make. The body was examined by Mr Booth, surgeon, and he found that there were several bruises about the eyes, extending down the cheeks to the lower jaw, bruises on the upper part of the chest, discolouration on the upper inside of the left arm, and a deepish scratch on the right wrist. It was also found that the tongue of the deceased was fixed between her teeth, which were so firmly clenched as to require an instrument to open them. The body generally presented a healthy appearance. Mr Booth was of opinion that the deceased had been ill used by someone (or more), probably beaten with the fist, and that the violence rendered her insensible, that she had been thrown into the canal and drowned ; he considered that it was not probable she had fallen down a bank and so sustained the injuries, for in that case her face might have been bruised, but not her chest and the inside of her arm. Daniel Ward, a horsekeeper, stated that about six weeks ago a strange woman came to him about half past five one morning in a wet state, and said some boatmen had done what they liked with her and cast her into the canal, but he could not say that the deceased was the same woman. The jury desired more evidence and, after a short consultation, the inquest was adjourned for a week. From the medical evidence and the statement of Ward (which shows that some woman, most probably not the deceased, was subjected to violence on the canal bank or near it), it is probable that the woman has had a quarrel with someone, or has been attacked and caught hold of by the left arm, which is discoloured on the inside of the upper part, and been struck by the person who seized her on the face and the upper part of the breast. It appears probable that one blow which alighted on her face has been so severe that she spasmodically clenched her teeth at the moment, that her tongue was between them, instantly became insensible and then fell or was pushed into the water. Had she not been insensible when she got into the water, she would have naturally opened her mouth in an attempt to breathe. Supposing this hypothesis to be correct, the woman had been murdered. The medical gentleman described her as a young woman, in good health, well built, with black hair and with two or three molar teeth deficient on each side of the jaw.

65 **December 23 1864**

CONDEMNATION OF ANOTHER MURDERER

WORCESTER ASSIZES, DECEMBER 15 (Before Mr Justice Byles)

John Butler was indicted and charged, upon the coroner's inquisition, with the wilful murder of Catherine Gulliver at Ombersley on the 13th August last.

The prisoner was the head lock-keeper at the Holt Fleet Lock on the Severn, and the deceased had kept his house for him since the death of his wife, which happened three years back. On the night of Saturday the 13th of August the deceased was at the shop of Mrs Taylor, where she bought some grocery, between 9 and 10 o'clock. She appeared in good spirits. On her way she had called at a beer house kept by a person named Green, distant about 360 yards from the lock. At about 10 o'clock, she returned to the beerhouse from Mrs Taylor's, and took away with her a bottle of beer. She was quite sober ; she always bore a good character for temperance ; she was dressed on these occasions in her bonnet. She came a third time to Green's house at about eleven o'clock, and knocked at the door but did not enter the house. Mrs Green opened the door to her, and she then made a complaint. The particulars of the complaint were not given in evidence. The deceased left Mrs Green's going homeward. About 30 or 40 yards from the prisoner's house at the lock stood the cottage of the under locksmen, **Harris**. Harris and his wife had gone to bed about half past nine on this Saturday night. They had been asleep some time when Mrs Harris awoke and heard what she termed a "bleating" noise. Both she and Harris soon afterwards heard twice repeated, in a voice which they thought belonged to the deceased, "You ----- old scamp. You ----- old villain". Ann

Green, the daughter of the beerhouse keeper, also heard screams coming apparently from the lock some time after the deceased had been at the beerhouse for the last time. About a quarter before five on the Sunday morning, a boatman named **Ewers** saw the prisoner drawing up the bottom paddles of the lower gate of the lock. He drew them up 16 or 18 inches. It was the prisoner's duty to attend to the lock on that night. A labourer named Knight was passing the lock at a quarter past five o'clock that same morning, and he saw the prisoner standing on the edge of the lock, looking into the water. As soon as he perceived Knight he went into his house and watched him pass by. Harris, the under locksman, first saw the prisoner the next morning. He was lolling over his garden gate, and went into the house, but Harris, seeing that no smoke was coming out of the chimney, asked him if the deceased had not come back, to which he answered, "No". Mrs Harris then asked him if his housekeeper was not at home, to which he answered she was not. Mrs Harris then asked him if it was not the deceased she had heard "bleating" outside their house the night before. He answered, "Yes ; I was laid down on my bed with my clothes on, and she came to the door and undone the door. She went in and was in a dreadful passion. I thought she seemed in drink ; she threw the basket down and the grocery went all over the place. She went out in a passion, and I didn't see her afterwards". At about a quarter before four o'clock on the same evening he came again to Mrs Harris, when she asked him if the deceased was come home, to which he answered she had not, but perhaps she would be back in a day or two. Mrs Green of the beerhouse went to the prisoner's house when she heard the deceased was absent, and the prisoner at once said to her he owed her for some eggs, but when she stated that her object was not any such matter, but that she had come to see if the deceased had come home, the prisoner stated she had not, and that she had been talking of going to see her friends for two or three days, and he supposed she was gone. Mrs Green then asked him if he had made any inquiries after her, and he replied he had not. Mrs Harris warned him that he would get blamed about her. He then said he was afraid that she was in the water, and fetched a deep sigh, and seemed much put about. On Wednesday the 17th, a man named Ewers dragged the river, and about 70 yards below the lock, on the towing-path side, he found the body of a woman. He brought it to shore, and took it to Green's beerhouse. Mr Busigny, a surgeon at Ombersley, examined it, and found a black eye and a lump on the forehead about the size of a walnut, and the lower jaw was slightly discoloured. There were no marks or bruises upon any other part of the body. He thought that the black eye was caused by a blow inflicted before death ; but on cross-examination, though he maintained his opinion, he agreed with all Dr Taylor has written in Taylor's Medical Jurisprudence on the difficulty of deciding whether a blow was given shortly before or after death. Upon an internal examination he found no water, sand or mud in the air passages of the lungs, nor could he find any frothy mucus, and from this he inferred that death had been caused before the body was immersed in the water, but he admitted that these tests might be fallacious, and especially so as the body was dragged out with the head depending. When the prisoner was told of the finding of the body he said nothing. Evidence was given of previous quarrels between the prisoner and the deceased, though not resulting in blows. The learned Judge referred to the trial of Tawell, the Quaker, for poisoning, some years ago on the Norfolk Circuit, as a precedent for the admission of such evidence. On the 1st of July last, the deceased had come to the police station in the evening and complained of the prisoner's ill treatment, and when the policeman told him what she had said, the prisoner replied by promising that if the policeman would ask her to forgive him that time he would never threaten her again. In the latter part of June they were not on good terms, and at the end of June she had been heard to call out, "Murder", upon the occasion of his putting her out of the house. The prisoner received a very high character for humanity and respectability from the clergyman of his parish and others.

His Lordship summed up, and the jury then retired, and in about an hour returned into court with a verdict of Guilty.

His Lordship then passed sentence of death in the usual manner.

66 **January 13 1865**

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

ALLEGED ROBBERY BY A BOATMAN A boatman named **Thomas Widdowson** appeared on his own recognisances to answer a charge of stealing a pipe stave and two deals, the property of Mr W Hammersley, timber merchant, about nine or ten weeks ago. Mr Everall appeared for the prosecutor, and Mr Heath for the defendant. Thomas Hutchinson said he was in the prosecutor's employ. He knew the defendant, and he had also worked for the same person. In October last, the defendant was engaged by Mr Hammersley to bring him 1190 pipe staves from Gainsborough in his boat, and deposit them at his wharf, which is near to the canal. He properly unloaded them, and witness afterwards examined the boat to see as none were left in it. They were all marked "J G G" with a stamp. At the time there were other staves in stock, and some deals which were marked with an O and a figure 1. He had examined the pipe stave and the deals in the possession of PC Hallam, and they exactly corresponded with those of the prosecutor's. **John Attersall** said he was a boat maker, carrying on business at his wharf in Old Lenton. About nine weeks ago the prisoner left the pipe stave and two deals on his wharf bank as he was passing with his boat to Shardlow. He told him he should perhaps call some day and have his boat "trimmed" with them. He afterwards removed them into his shed, where PC Hallam found them last week. Edward Hammersley, the foreman in the prosecutor's employ, said he believed it was the only firm in Nottingham that received this class of goods. Mr Everall was about to call Detective Langford as a witness, who was in possession of every important fact concerning the affair, when Mr Chief Constable Hedington said he had gone to Sheffield on business, and he did not think he would be back until the afternoon. A remand was then applied for, which was accordingly granted, and the defendant gave an undertaking on his own recognisances to appear next Tuesday morning.

67 **January 20 1865**

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM, TUESDAY

OFFENCE AGAINST A BOATMAN **Thomas Widdowson** was charged, on remand, with being concerned in a robbery of two deals and a pipe stave from the premises of Mr Hammersley, timber merchant, Station Street, about twelve weeks ago. Mr Heath appeared for the prisoner, and Mr Everall for the prosecution. A boatman named **George Simpson** deposed to assisting the prisoner with his boat from Gainsborough to Newark about the time named, and to his taking out of the water fourteen deals and one pipe stave. The Mayor said there appeared reasonable grounds for sending the case for trial at the Assizes, as it was one of a serious nature. He had however no objection to his being bailed out. The Clerk said the man had better remain in custody until tomorrow morning, as the depositions of the various witnesses would be taken that afternoon. He was then removed.

WEDNESDAY

STEALING DEALS **Thomas Widdowson**, a boatman, was charged on remand from the previous day, on suspicion of having stolen two deals and one pipe stave, the property of Mr Hammersley, timber merchant, Station Street, in October last. Mr Everall appeared for the prosecution and Mr Heath for the defence. After the evidence of the various witnesses had been read over, the Mayor committed the man for trial at the assizes. Bail was allowed.

68 **January 27 1865**

HOVERINGHAM

THE BODY OF A CHILD FOUND IN THE RIVER On Friday last an inquest was held at the Elm Tree public house in the parish of Hoveringham by W Newton Esq, coroner, on the body of a child found in the river on the previous day. **William Bryan**, a boatman who lives in his boat, said that on Thursday morning he was at Caythorpe dyke end dredging for gravel, and with the gravel he dragged out the body of the deceased quite naked. Mr Thomas Day of Lowndam, surgeon, said he had examined the body. He believed it was not full grown, and had been five or six days in the

water. There was no appearance of the child having been strangled, and it had been attended by a person who understood what to do when it was born. He had examined the right lung, and had reason to believe the child was stillborn. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

69 February 17 1865

COUNTY SESSIONS ROOM, NEWARK

CHARGE OF STEALING TIMBER On Saturday last at the County Sessions Room, Newark, **Thomas Widdison** of this town, boatman, was charged before Philip Handley Esq with having, at Farndon in the month of October last, stolen eight pine deal planks, value £2 8s, the property of William Hammersley, timber merchant, Nottingham. The prisoner was on bail to answer a similar charge of felony at Nottingham at the next Assizes. Mr Hammersley is a timber merchant, and imports timber from abroad. It is brought by way of Hull, and thence to Gainsborough. From the latter place it is brought up the river in boats. The evidence was lengthy, but the facts were briefly as follows :- In October last, the prosecutor's foreman at Gainsborough, having a large quantity of wood on hand, and being afraid he should get his yard too full, engaged the prisoner, with his own boat, to take up two cargoes to Nottingham. On his way with one of the loads he engaged **William Antcliffe** of Farndon (a trip man) to assist him with his higgling horse from Collingham to the Chester haystacks below Colwick Wood. When near Farndon, where Antcliffe resides, prisoner said he had no money to pay him the 17s which he had bargained to give him for his services, and that he should not have any until he reached Nottingham. Prisoner said his cargo consisted of cotton seeds, and from the appearance of the upper part Antcliffe could not know otherwise, and had no suspicion of anything being wrong. Prisoner offered to give him eight planks instead of cash, and Antcliffe consented to receive them, having no idea of their value. He afterwards sold them for 20s to George Lawson, who sold them again for 32s to John Marshall of Stoke, on whose premises the planks were found by Superintendent Bexon, to whom they were delivered, and Marshall stated how he became possessed of them. John King and John Harrison saw the planks produced by the police, and said they were marked the same as a large quantity which were loaded at Gainsborough on prisoner's boat, to be conveyed to Nottingham. The marks were peculiar, the witnesses having never seen similar marks on wood before. The prisoner was committed to take his trial at the next Assizes. Bail was offered and accepted.

70 February 17 1865

A CANAL FLOODING A COLLIERY On Friday evening last a fatal accident occurred at the Racecourse Colliery, between Dudley and Tipton, the property of the Earl of Dudley. In the South Staffordshire district, where the seams of coal are generally from 30 to 40 feet thick, it often happens that the surface of the ground falls in when all the coal has been worked out underneath. Sometimes the subsidence is gradual ; sometimes only a few square yards fall in, and when that is the case a kind of ragged shaft is formed, often many yards in depth. The latter is locally known as "a crowner in". About 40 yards from the colliery at which the above mentioned accident took place, there is a branch of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. On Friday evening last, about a quarter past six o'clock, the watchman on the pit bank heard some men shouting from the bottom of the shaft, and at once signalled to the engineer to draw them up. There were in the pit five men and a boy, but three only came to the surface. They stated that they heard the "slam" of water from the canal breaking into the pit, and had at once made for the bottom of the shaft, whence they signalled to be brought to the top. They were at work much closer to the bottom than the two men and a boy, and they had endeavoured, without success, to alarm them when they made their own escape. Some persons immediately made an inspection of the branch of the canal, and found that at a spot exactly opposite to the pit, a "crowner in" had destroyed part of the embankment of the canal, and the water had consequently rushed in and flooded the workings of the colliery. Within five minutes after the three men had reached the surface, the water was standing from seven feet to eight feet deep in the shaft. The report of the accident soon spread, and hundreds of people flocked to the spot, many of them remaining the greater part of the night. The water was soon drawn off by a pumping engine,

which has been erected for the purpose of draining several of the collieries in the neighbourhood, but it was 2 o'clock on Saturday morning before the place where the two men and a boy were at work when the water rushed in could be reached. The worst anticipations were fully realised. The bodies of the men were in such a position as left little doubt that they had been overwhelmed by the water before they had time even to think of escape. It is surmised however, from the place in which the body of the lad was found, that he had discovered the situation of matters, and had made an attempt to effect his escape, but was met by the inrushing waters. The names of the deceased are John Worton, David Worton and Joseph Worton. The two first named were brothers, and both were married and had large families. The last named, who was only fourteen, was son of John Worton. The five men and the boy who were in the pit at the time of the accident went down for the purpose of working all night. Had the accident occurred when the day men were at work, the lives of between 20 and 30 persons would have been placed in jeopardy. Three valuable horses were in the pit at the time the water set in, and they also were drowned.

71 February 17 1865

GREAT FLOOD IN BIRMINGHAM

BURSTING OF A CANAL The Birmingham Post gives the following account of the bursting of a canal :-

A flood of a very serious nature occurred on Thursday afternoon through the bursting of an arm of the Birmingham Old Canal, which has done remarkable damage to the Great Western Railway between Hockley and Soho, and flooded an immense area of ground partially traversed by streets in the neighbourhood of Lodge Road, Hockley Place and Icknield Street. Considering the magnitude of the accident, the immense body of water that burst its bounds, and the populous district through which the water ran, it is one of the most remarkable accidents that have taken place for some years past. The damage is almost entirely confined to the canal, the railway, and the roadways. No lives have been lost, and no accidents reported, though there were many hairbreadth escapes. Between Hockley and Soho stations – Great Western Company – the line of rails passes under a tunnel about 100 yards long belonging to the Birmingham Canal ; and it is through some portion of this tunnel that the water has burst. This part of the canal is not used for ordinary traffic, but is simply an arm which branches from the main at Winson Bridge, and is made use of by the Railway Company, the Glass House and some coal dealers. In length the arm is about a quarter of a mile ; it is furnished with three sidings of decks for the delivery of goods to the railway company, who have warehouses on the bank. The arm only extends a few yards beyond the tunnel which crosses the railway, and terminates in a coal wharf. There had been no leakage in any part of the tunnel which, we were informed, was only a short time ago examined very closely ; and not the slightest apprehension of danger existed. Fortunately the first sign of what was about to happen was discovered almost as soon as it presented itself, which gave the authorities ample opportunity of adopting several very wise precautions. The driver of the 4.11 train from Wolverhampton, it appears, noticed a considerable leakage in the side of the tunnel as he passed through. The water was then flowing through in a gentle stream, and running upon the permanent way. On arriving at the Hockley station he gave the alarm, and Mr Murch, the station master, immediately went down the line towards the tunnel, which was distant about a quarter of a mile, to see for himself the extent of the threatened danger. He had scarcely traversed half the distance before he found the flood had covered the whole of the line and was very rapidly rising. Between Hockley and the tunnel there is a deep cutting which confined the water, and consequently it poured down the line towards Hockley station with considerable fury. Before leaving the station, he telegraphed to Snow Hill and the stations down the line to stop all traffic. This was done, and the whole of the trains coming to Birmingham were from that time stopped at Soho. On seeing the grave extent of the flood, Mr Murch retreated to the station, and summoning a number of men directed them to cut a channel through the side of the embankment on which the station is built, and the tunnel side of the station, so that the course of the stream might be diverted in the direction of the waste ground below the station, and thence into the Hockley Brook. Mr Murch then went to the Snow Hill Station, and

reported the circumstance to Mr Andrews, the superintendent, who returned with him, bringing a number of men. On reaching Hockley Station, they found the water pouring down the line in dense volumes, sweeping through the narrow channel cut by the men, and carrying with it in its course scores of tons of the embankment. The station ground is enclosed with a substantial stone wall, which borders Park Road. The immense volume of water, weighted with the soil which it had dislodged, broke down this wall for a length of something like 160 yards. It fell with a crash that shook the houses in the vicinity and caused their inmates the utmost terror. Many of those who lived in houses adjoining the course taken by the flood, on hearing the roar, hastily fled from their homes. The stream of water appears to have been dammed by the railway station wall, and when it fell, an enormous volume of water burst with terrific force on the Park Road, tearing up the roadway and rushing onwards over the Lodge Road, down over some waste ground, on towards the Hockley Brook. So great was the force of the flood that portions of the wall were scattered over the several roadways crossed by the water like so many stray waifs. The traffic across the Park and Lodge Roads was wholly suspended for several hours, and up to a late hour last night the water covered several acres of ground between the station and the Lodge Road. The Park Road was completely inundated, no one daring to venture across it, as it was supposed that the roadway itself was torn up at the same time the wall fell. After the water had abated to some extent, some enterprising carters reaped quite a harvest by carrying people across the Lodge Road through the flood in carts. As no sign of the disaster was given before the great flow took place, everyone connected with the canal was taken by surprise. Means were however hastily adopted to stop the torrent by the blocking up of the canal near Winson Bridge. A number of planks were let down in grooves of the walls of the canal, but before this was accomplished, a body of water of immense bulk had found its way through the tunnel on to the railway. There were several men on the tunnel at the precise moment that the fracture took place. One of them told us that his attention was suddenly attracted by seeing the water eddying around. He was so perplexed at the sight as to stand spellbound until large portions of the towing-path opposite to him disappeared, and then the thought struck him that the tunnel must have fallen in. There were two boatmen who had a very narrow escape with their lives. They were in a boat which was loaded with coal, several hundreds of yards from the place where the tunnel is situated, and first became aware that something extraordinary had taken place by the boat making a sudden shoot forwards, as though shot from a gun. They threw out ropes to the men on the side of the canal, but no one was able to render any assistance, and still the boat shot forward. The men shouted for help, but none was near. They looked before them, and saw a huge whirlpool in the centre of the canal ; the water hissed with rage as it was drawn downwards. If they jumped on to the side, there was the risk of getting a footing ; if they remained, there was the certainty of being drawn into the whirlpool. In fewer seconds than it takes to read this, the boat, before the men had time to make a desperate leap for their lives, was drawn into the whirlpool, and struck the side of the canal heavily. That very moment both men leapt for the shore, reached it, and ran for their lives ; and before they had gone many yards, the whole of the towing path on to which they had jumped sank out of sight. The boat still rests on the bed of the canal, and bridges the chasm caused by the running water. It is filled with coal, and many were of opinion that it served to stay that part of the wall against which it rested, and confined the damage done to the tunnel to the first fracture. Late last night, while fitful gleams of moonlight shone upon the scene, men and boys continued to hunt for fish in the shallow pools left in the canal ; while old men, standing round small coal fires, kept watch over the property of the company, and obligingly warned visitors not to venture too near the spot where the fracture had taken place. Down below, in the deep railway cutting, a number of men, by the light of the moon and the additional aid of some lanterns, dug trenches for the water to escape along. In the uncertain light of the moon it was difficult to ascertain the precise bounds of the flood ; and it was impossible to make anything like a close inspection, even with the aid of a vehicle, as on several occasions on venturing to a flooded house the water flowed into the vehicle.

72 March 10 1865

BREACH OF THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY'S BYE LAWS On Monday at the Borough Police Court, **Robert Noon**, boatman of Shipley, was summoned for repassing on the 20th of January with his boat through a lock of the Grantham Canal near the Trent Bridge, after the latter had been locked up by a servant of the Great Northern Railway (the owners of the canal), before it had been unlocked, contrary to the bye laws of the Grantham Canal Navigation made in pursuance of the Act 33 Geo 3 c 94. The defendant was further summoned for having taken a tunnel or narrow boat singly through a lock on the canal, such lock being large enough to admit of two tunnel or narrow boats passing through it, contrary to a Bye law of the Grantham Canal Navigation Act. Mr Brewster appeared on behalf of the Great Northern Railway Company. The defendant pleaded guilty. Mr Brewster then stated that on the 20th of January one of the defendant's boats came down the canal, and he was told the amount of tonnage dues he would have to pay. Defendant made some demur to the payment of the dues, and his boat was locked up, but he directed one of his men to break the lock open, and the boat got away. The information was laid under two distinct bye laws, by one of which the defendant was liable to a penalty of £5, and by the other £1 ; but as the defendant had pleaded guilty and was, no doubt, greatly excited when he committed the offence, the second one would be withdrawn. The object which the Great Northern Railway Company had in view in taking proceedings against the defendant was to show that persons could not commit such an offence with impunity. The Mayor said the defendant's own common sense ought to have shown him that it was necessary for the railway company to protect their property, and to have deterred him from committing the offence of which he had pleaded guilty. After the statement of Mr Brewster, who had said he had no doubt he was a good deal excited, the magistrates would not inflict so heavy a fine upon him as they would otherwise have done. Under the circumstances, he would have to pay a fine of 10s and the expenses.

73 April 14 1865

THE FAMILY DROWNED AT GAYTHORN An Inquest was held in Manchester on Monday by Mr Herford, city coroner, on the bodies of **John Pendlebury** of Bedford Leigh, boatman aged 39 years ; his wife, **Catherine Pendlebury**, aged 29 years ; and daughter, **Mary Ann Pendlebury**, aged 15 months, whose death by drowning in the canal at Gaythorn was reported in Monday's Guardian. **William Dickinson**, a man employed on the boat of which Pendlebury was the captain, and which was lying at a little distance from the spot where the child was found, said that Pendlebury came to the boat drunk about half past eleven o'clock on Saturday night. He asked his wife to prepare him some supper, but she refused and a quarrel ensued. Witness left the boat, and after walking some distance along the canal bank, he saw Pendlebury leave the boat. His wife, with the child, followed him, and in a few minutes witness lost sight of them. Witness had heard Pendlebury several times threaten to kill his wife. An open verdict was returned.

74 June 9 1865

SHOCKING DEATH OF A SERVANT GIRL NEAR STOURBRIDGE On Tuesday the body of a servant girl was found in the canal at Woollaston Bridge near Stourbridge, under circumstances which render it strongly presumable that she fell the victim of a murderer. The deceased's name was Mary Dorrell, and she was 25 years of age. She was a quiet and inoffensive girl, and bore an excellent character, one of her masters saying of her that if ever there was an honest and good hearted girl she was one. At the time of the sad occurrence by which she lost her life, she was in service at Mr Henry Hicklin's at Woollaston. On Saturday night she asked permission to go into Stourbridge for an hour, and she accordingly started off at about eight o'clock. She never returned. Her absence on the Saturday night, and subsequently, led to Mr Hicklin's writing to her parents on Monday last to ask if she had returned home. The girl's friends live at the Wren's Nest near Dudley, but they returned no answer to the inquiry contained in this letter. On Tuesday evening, a boat belonging to the Stourbridge Ironworks was passing by the Woollaston Bridge, when the motion of the water caused a dead body to rise to the surface. The boatmen saw the clothes in the water and

got the body out on the towing-path. It was that of the poor girl Dorrell. She was conveyed to Mr Sutton's, the Fish Inn, and in the pocket of her dress was a pair of silk gloves, which she had purchased on Saturday night in Stourbridge, and doubtless intended to wear on the Sunday. A severe bruise on the right eye suggested that she had been wilfully pushed into the canal. On the removal of her clothing, another bruise, apparently from a kick, was found on her hip, and her arms were scarred, though the latter marks might, and probably were, caused by the passing of a boat. It appears to be the general opinion that the girl has been murdered. As far as yet ascertained no one was seen with the deceased on Saturday night, and the occurrence is surrounded in mystery.

75 October 6 1865

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

A SUSPICIOUS CASE Charles Inger and Lydia Burton, the former a commission agent, were brought up on the custody of Sergeant Lynch, charged with having stolen a silver watch and chain and a silk handkerchief from the person of a boatman named **Thomas Watchorn** at a house of ill fame in Pilcher Gate, at an early hour that morning. Prosecutor, who it seems resides at Harby in Leicestershire, accompanied the female prisoner to a brothel in Bagthorpe Place, Pilcher Gate, and while he was there he fell asleep. He awoke again about four o'clock, but found his handkerchief had been taken from his neck, and the watch and chain out of his pocket. He asked the male prisoner, who was in the house, about them, but he denied all knowledge of them. The female prisoner did the same, and he afterwards went to the Police Station and gave Sergeant Lynch information of what had taken place. The Sergeant proceeded to the place, and upon searching the bed upon which the male prisoner was lying, found the watch and chain under the pillow and the handkerchief concealed in some wearing apparel near it. He accused both prisoners with having stolen the property, but as they denied it he took them into custody. Prisoners now denied the charge, and as there was a doubt concerning it, the Bench discharged them with a caution.

76 January 5 1866

EAST RETFORD QUARTER SESSIONS The following is a calendar of prisoners for trial at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden at East Retford on Monday the 8th day of January 1866 :- **Robert Johnson**, 28, boatman, charged with stealing sixty seven stones weight of potatoes, the property of Thomas Rose and another, at Walkeringham on the 19th December.

77 January 12 1866

A WOMAN FOUND DROWNED IN THE CANAL On Friday an inquest was held at the Navigation Inn, Trent Lane, near the London Road, before C Swann Esq, on the body of an elderly woman named Elizabeth Underwood. Ann Mellors, residing in Lower Eldon Street, Sneinton, deposed that the deceased lived with her, and was a widow. She was about 55 years of age. The last time she saw deceased alive was about six o'clock on the previous night, when she left the house without saying where she was going. She (witness) sat up until after twelve o'clock, when she endeavoured to find deceased, but did not succeed. She inquired of the neighbours in the morning whether they had seen her or heard anything of her, but she could not obtain any information. About dinner time, however, she was informed that a woman had been drowned, and on afterwards seeing the body at the Navigation Inn, she identified it. She believed deceased had a little money of her own upon which she lived, but that it had been spent. She had heard deceased say, "Money all going and nothing coming in soon gets consumed". She made a great trouble about it, and often said she would sooner go and drown herself than ask anyone for money or go to the workhouse. She always seemed very low spirited. She also made a great trouble of leaving the situation of housekeeper to Mr Smith, formerly of Hathern, but latterly of Sneinton, and who was now dead. She thought deceased had drowned herself. Deceased appeared to be very downcast and miserable during the whole of the day before leaving the house. In reply to the jury, witness stated that deceased had been in a low state of mind ever since she had known her, but was worse on the day on which she left the house. She had noticed during the last few days deceased had not lived so

well as she had previously done. Witness added that deceased also made a great trouble on Wednesday about a doctor's bill she had received. **Robert Cox**, boatman, Sneinton, deposed that he was navigating a boat at a quarter to eight o'clock that (Friday) morning, and when he got near to Mr Fisher's Dock he saw the deceased's body floating in the canal alongside of the boat. He obtained assistance, and the body was got out and laid upon the bank. The body appeared to be quite dead. PC Walker, residing at the Police Station, Trent Bridge, deposed that, that morning about eight o'clock, a man named Whitehead informed him that a body had been found in the canal, and on going to the spot he found deceased lying on the canal bank, and it was removed to the Navigation Inn. The body was quite dead. The pockets were searched by the landlady (Mrs Poole) in his presence, and a few trifling articles were found, but no money. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased's body had been found in the canal, but as to how it had got into the water there was no evidence to show.

78 January 19 1866

SUDDEN DEATH OF A FEMALE On Saturday morning last, Mr Coroner Hitchins held an enquiry at the Black Boy Inn, Lincoln, touching the death of a female named Mary Ann Savage, alias Borman, which took place in a suspicious manner at a house of ill fame in Cross Key's Yard, Castle Dykings, kept by a notorious old woman known as Beck Hammond. The deceased, whose parents reside at Carlton, near Nottingham, her father being a platelayer on the railway, was said to be a married woman, that her husband's name was Savage, and that she was, according to one statement, 18 years of age, and to another 25 years old. The particulars of the painful and revolting case are detailed in evidence. The Jury (of which Mr William Peart was foreman) on assembling, first proceeded to view the body, which was lying in Hammond's house. They (the jury) were evidently surprised and disgusted with the house, its position, and the approach to it, which were of such a wretched character as to be almost indescribable, the wonder being that such a den, which a juryman aptly said he should not like to keep a pig in, should find any persons willing to occupy it. The body of the unfortunate deceased was stretched on a long settle in a dark room used as a kitchen, in which, to use a common expression, there was not space to swing a cat, and the ceiling of which was so low that some of the jurymen had to stoop to prevent a collision with it and their heads. Her face was quite black, her hair dishevelled, and the picture thus presented was of a ghastly and frightful appearance. On the jury returning to the inn, the following witnesses were examined :- **Charles Clarke** deposed : I am a boatman, and generally work for William Kindersley. I have lived at Mrs Hammond's about four years. She is known as "Beck Hammond", and the house is in Cross Key's Yard ; it belongs to Mr Marshall. I am not living with her. (Inspector Clapham : He is a married man, but has left his wife and is living with another woman). Witness : I caught my wife in bed with another man, and that's why I left her. The deceased came up about a fortnight ago. I was in Yorkshire at the time. I suppose she came as a prostitute. I expect that is the way Mrs Hammond gets her living. I saw the deceased last alive on Thursday night about a quarter to ten o'clock. She was sober, but was complaining of a pain in her head ; she kept saying she was very dizzy, and had got a sick headache. I left the other lodger (Thomas Simonds) and his woman and Mrs Hammond in the house with her when I went to bed. I got up about twenty minutes past seven on Friday morning. Mrs Hammond had then gone to her mother's in the Drapery. I passed the deceased without noticing her, and went to Carratt's house to have breakfast. When I was going away from Carratt's about ten o'clock, one of Carratt's sons told me there was a letter for me. I took it, and found it was addressed to Mary Ann Borman ; it was the letter produced. The following is a copy of it :-

Carlton, January 9

"Deer dauter In ancer to your Letter your farther and mother saies that you ar quite welcom to com home your farther as been very poiley e only went to work last Mondy for the first time and whe ar all well at this time I ham sory to say that ham very poor just now you can com home as soon as you like whe shall be glad to see you So no More at this time So Good by God bless you Savidg is

not at Carlton e is working at Cirkby". (Kirby).

Examination continued : The boy told me he could not awaken the deceased. I went to her and said there was a letter for her, but she gave me no answer. I then got hold of her hand, which was very cold. Her hair was over her face, which was quite black, and on lifting her up I found she was dead. Her head was between the settle and the chimney corner. I gave information to the police. I never saw deceased with anyone. She told me she was about 18 years old. I wrote to her father for her. She could have gone to bed, as there was one for her.

Mr Chas Creasy Clayworth, house surgeon at the Dispensary, deposed : I saw the body of deceased about half past 11 yesterday morning ; she was then quite dead. Her chest was against the pillar of the settle, and her head was jammed between the edge of the sofa and the jamb of the fireplace. A natural fall would be sufficient, I am satisfied, to account for it. I examined the body, and found the face and neck very much congested. From the appearance of the countenance, I should judge the person died of asphyxia. I did not find any marks of violence upon the body. Since then I have made a *post mortem* examination of the body, in conjunction with Mr Taplin. We found the face and neck, as I before said, very much congested. There were no marks of violence whatever. We at once proceeded to examine the brain, and found great congestion of the membranes. We also examined the lateral vesticles of the brain, and found considerably over an average amount of serum. We at once formed our diagnosis, and found that the deceased died of asphyxia. We examined other parts of the body, which we found perfectly healthy, with the exception of the lungs being slightly congested. I think that the head falling in the position I found it, and becoming impacted, would cause death.

Mr B D Taplin, surgeon, gave corroborative evidence. He said in his own mind the death of the individual arose from asphyxia, caused by the circumstances disclosed by Mr Clayworth.

The jury acquiesced, and a verdict was returned accordingly. The inquiry occupied upwards of four hours.

79 January 26 1866

NEWARK

BOATMEN CHARGED WITH STEALING ROPE At the Newark Police Court on Monday morning, before the Mayor and other magistrates, **John Wilkins** and **George Shelton** of Nottingham, boatmen in the employ of Mr Hammersley, the owner of a steam packet plying between Nottingham and Gainsborough, were charged with stealing, on the 18th inst, a hundred pounds weight of rope, value 5s, from **Nathaniel Marshall**. Mr Ashley appeared for the prisoners. Marshall is an engineer and captain of Mr Hammersley's steam packet. He is employed as general foreman, not only over the packet, but the boats which are attached to it and tugged up the river. The prisoners were employed as boatmen to navigate the boats. On Thursday last, as they were coming up the river from Gainsborough, when near the tubular bridge which crosses the Trent a short distance from Newark, Marshall saw a sack bag filled with what he supposed to be rope, placed on one of the boats, as if ready for removal. He suspected it was intended to dispose of it, and on arriving at Newark gave information to the police. He did not see rope in the bag, but believed the rope produced by the police was his master's property. He could not identify the bag, or say to whom it belonged. Mr Hammersley of Nottingham said he knew nothing of the bag, but believed the rope to be portions of his property. He had examined to see if the ends had been taken off for splicing, but he found a considerable portion of it had been chopped through at both ends, and nine tenths of it was in good useable condition. He believed it was of a size not generally used on the Trent except by himself. Previous to the prisoner Shelton leaving Nottingham the last time, witness ordered a piece of new hemp rope to be given to him to be spliced to the tow rope, because he had complained it was too short. The rope produced was bass rope, of which a large quantity would be set at liberty by the half long rope which he ordered to be given to Shelton. Cross-examined : I purchase rope of large manufacturers at Manchester and Grimsby. I do not mark my rope, and can only speak to it from its general appearance. Rope broken off the end of a large piece

is called "fitchett". I do not allow my boatmen to sell those pieces, but have given strict orders to the contrary. I find everything required for use on the boats, without making any deductions for kettles or anything else. The rope is undoubtedly cut, and not half worn out. It is half the value of new rope to me, and worth about 30s per cwt. By the Court : Half a large rope such as I ordered to be given to the prisoner Shelton would cost several pounds, and there ought to be another returned to the stores. William Clarke, sailmaker, Millgate, said he was a buyer of old rope and bagging. Last Thursday evening the prisoners came and offered him a lot of old rope. It weighed 111 pounds, for which he paid Shelton 6s 2s, being at the current price of 10d per stone of 15 lbs. Police-constable Free and Captain Marshall came in immediately afterwards, the men were apprehended and the rope was taken away in a barrow which he lent for the purpose. Cross-examined : It is a privilege given to boatmen by masters of boats to sell old rope. It is allowed by Mr Thorpe and other boat owners. Such rope is called "fitchett", and I consider the rope produced is "fitchett". When asked by Mr Hammersley whether the ends were not cut, witness said Captain Marshall called on the night of the 10th of January to inquire whether the men had brought anything for sale, and ordered him, if they should bring anything, to buy it and pay for it. Witness told him the price would be 10d per stone, and that if anything was wrong he should not stand to it. Police-constable Free was there to take possession instantly, therefore witness did not examine the rope. Shelton returned the 6s 2d he had received for the rope. Police-constable Free said that from information received on Thursday last he went to Clarke's shop about six in the evening, and saw the prisoners against the door, a quantity of rope lying on the floor. Clarke said they were Hammersley's men, and he charged them with stealing the rope. Prisoners said they did not know they had stolen it ; it always belonged to them. Witness asked where they got the rope, and in reply one of the prisoners said they had taken it from Mr Hammersley's boat. Mr Hammersley, recalled, said every man in his employ was instructed that he was not allowed to sell rope. Mr Ashley addressed the Bench on behalf of the prisoners, contending that the evidence was unsatisfactory. The prisoners pleaded not guilty after being cautioned, and reserved their defence. They were committed for trial at the next Borough Sessions, the Court consenting to accept bail if they could find sureties for the usual amount. The Mayor recalled Free and asked him whether he cautioned the prisoners before he asked where they obtained the rope. Free replied that he did not. His Worship told him he ought not to ask questions of anyone charged with felony, without first cautioning him. Superintendent Liddell, on being questioned whether he gave instructions to his officers on this point, said he gave directions to every man in the force not to ask questions of a prisoner without cautioning him. The Mayor told Free not to do it again.

80 February 23 1866

SHOCKING CASE OF SHOOTING About 12 o'clock on Tuesday, a young man named Thomas Lefler, 16, living with his father at Woodfield Place, Paddington, was with some other young men, leaning over the parapet of the canal bridge near the Lock Hospital, when they heard loud noises proceeding from a barge which was wending its way from the Paddington Basin to Southall. The only occupants of the barge was a boatman named **Joseph Ward**, 28, and his wife **Eliza**, aged 24. Both of them were in a state of semi intoxication, and were quarrelling because the woman would not allow the barge to be stopped to enable the man to get a bottle of rum at a public house near the bridge. The language used by both the man and woman was of a most beastly character, and called forth a remark from one of the young men on the bridge, which was heard by Ward and his wife. Ward, after saying, "You b----s, I'll give you something to stop your talk", went into the cabin, and in a moment afterwards came out carrying with him a gun loaded with "No 2" shot. He then took deliberate aim at the young men on the bridge, and fired. The principal portion of the contents entered the head and face of Lefler, the effect being that one eye was completely destroyed and a portion of the cheek blown away. Mr Beale of Porteus Road, divisional surgeon of police, was called, who ordered the young man to be taken to St Mary's Hospital, where he now lies in a precarious state.

81 March 9 1866

NOTTINGHAM SPRING ASSIZES The following is a calendar of the prisoners to be tried at the Assizes to be holden at the Shire Hall, Nottingham, on Saturday March 10th 1866 :-

William Pierrepoint, 21, boatman, charged with maliciously causing grievous bodily harm to John Hallam at Sutton-on-Trent on the 31st July 1865.

82 March 16 1866

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SPRING ASSIZES

MALICIOUS INJURY **William Pierrepoint** (21), boatman, was charged with maliciously causing grievous bodily harm to John Hallam at Sutton-on-Trent on the 31st July 1865. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and Mr Stephens addressed his lordship in mitigation of sentence, stating that the quarrel arose between the parties when in a state of high excitement in consequence of family quarrels ; and that as the prisoner had been in confinement since August last, he prayed the leniency of the court. The prisoner was ordered to be brought up for judgement tomorrow morning.

83 March 30 1866

DEATHS On the 21st, **John Thomas**, son of **Joseph Hage**, boatman, Mill Gate, aged 11 months.

84 May 11 1866

NEWARK

ALLEGED ROBBERY BY A PROSTITUTE At the Newark Police Court on Thursday morning, before the Mayor and J Gilstrap Esq, Ann Theaker, (a girl of loose character).was charged with having, on the 2nd inst, stolen a watch value 30s, the property of **William Fletcher** of Sutton-on-Trent, boatman. Prosecutor said he went to the Old King's Head public house, Baldertongate, on Wednesday afternoon between three and four o'clock, and remained there until about two o'clock next morning. Between 9 and 10 at night, he was in the yard, when prisoner came up to him and took his watch out of his pocket. Being afraid lest her comrades in the house should interfere, he did not charge her with the robbery until a short time afterwards, in the house, when prisoner said she had not got it. He was not quite sober at the time, and took no further steps until after he left the house at two o'clock, when he gave information to Police-sergeant Streets. Cross-examined by prisoner : He said she did not lend 2s 6d on the watch, for he had plenty of money when he entered the house, although he had none when he left. Police-sergeant Street said he received information of the robbery from prosecutor and accompanied him to the Old King's Head, Baldertongate, where he found the prisoner in bed with a militiaman. On searching the bed, he found the watch produced, which the prisoner identified, underneath where prisoner had been lying, between the mattress and the bed. He asked her whose watch it was, and she said it was hers, and that she had lent a young man 2s 6d on it. When apprehended on a charge of stealing it, she made no reply. Prisoner pleaded not guilty ; repeated her statement about lending Fletcher half a crown upon the watch, and was committed to take her trial at the next borough sessions.

85 May 18 1866

SUICIDE BY DROWNING On Sunday morning shortly after six o'clock, as some boatmen were against the locks of the canal alongside of the Navigation Inn, Wilford Road, they saw what appeared to be some female apparel upon the surface of the water. On nearing the spot, they could clearly see that it was the body of a well dressed woman. As soon as possible the body was got out and conveyed to the stables of the Navigation Inn. Information in the meantime was given to the police. It however remained unidentified until about eleven o'clock, when it was shown to Mr Henry Brown, dyer, Spaniel Row, who at once saw that the deceased was his wife Mary, and whose age is 48 years. It appears that the deceased for some time past had been of intemperate habits, and when in drink was of a violent temper, and had frequently stated she would destroy herself. But of this very little notice was taken beyond looking well after her. On Saturday night, on the son of deceased's arriving at home about twelve o'clock, he found his mother in drink and quarrelling with

his father. She had picked up the poker and the door bar, and was very violent towards her husband. The son, however, calmed her, and Mr Brown went to bed. He had scarcely gone upstairs before she left the house without her bonnet and went down Spaniel Row into Hounds Gate and through Nicholass Street, where the son followed and brought her back home. She went out again in the same direction, and as there were numbers of persons passing, the son waited until she got to the bottom of the Row, when he again went after her. He found on arriving in Hounds Gate that she was nowhere to be seen, and thinking she had sat down upon a doorstep close at hand, a thing she had often done before, he returned home and awaited her return. As she did not come directly he lay down upon the sofa, thinking she might possibly have gone to some neighbours. Whilst on the sofa he went to sleep. He afterwards went to bed, but was up before his father in the morning, and on his father coming down, he asked where his wife was, as the son did not know he went in search of her, and after going everywhere where he thought he could obtain tidings of her without success, he went to the police station and was informed that a woman had been found drowned. In company of Inspector Berrington he went to the Navigation Inn stables, where his worst fears were realised.

86 **May 18 1866**

THE SUICIDE IN THE CANAL On Monday afternoon, an inquest was held at the Navigation Inn, Wilford Road, before M Browne Esq, coroner, on the body of Mary Brown, who met her death by drowning in the canal. Mr George Clough having been chosen foreman of the jury, the following evidence was adduced :- **Henry Flear**, boatman, said he found the body of the deceased the previous morning about six o'clock, near the Navigation Inn, on going through the lock. In the water he saw a bundle of clothes, which he thought to be an old coat, and his partner got a hook with which he brought it ashore. It then turned out to be the body of a woman. She was quite dead. They brought the body to the stable of the Navigation Inn. He saw no marks or bruises or anything of the kind on the deceased. She was perfectly dressed, with the exception of a bonnet. As far as he could judge, he should say deceased had not been in the water long. Henry Brown, the husband of deceased, said he lived in Spaniel Row and was a dyer. The deceased was his wife, and was about 48 years of age. He last saw her alive about half past twelve on Saturday night, when she was at home. She was at that time in a very excited state, and got up the tongs to strike him with, not using, however, any words. He "nipped" into the kitchen and shut the door to protect himself from her violence. His son then came in and, whilst he was putting the shutters to, deceased went out. He told his son to go and look for her, and he would go to bed. His son could manage her better when she was in such freaks. He saw no more of his wife till he found her lying dead at the public house. He had no reason to suppose that anyone had done any wrong to her, and he would not have thought she would have done it to herself. She threatened some five or six years ago to make away with herself, on account, as she said, of her brother's and father's death, and she had to be narrowly watched. He never saw anything in the deceased's conduct to lead him to suppose that she was in an unsound state of mind, except when she was in drink. She took to drink immediately after the death of her brother and father. Latterly she had "indulged" two or three days in the week. Henry Brown, jun, warehouseman, said he was a son of the deceased. He went home soon after his father on Saturday night, and found his mother in a very excited condition. She was very violent because his father had shut himself in the kitchen and was holding the door. As soon as his father knew witness was there, he went out by the back door to put on the shutters. Deceased then abused witness and said she would go away. She went as far as the Catholic Apostolic Church, but she was run after and brought back. Deceased however again rushed out of the house, saying it was no use to follow her, and witness did not do so immediately, as a man was passing at the time, and he did not want anyone to know what was the matter. When the man had got out of his sight he went in search of his mother, but could not find her. He afterwards returned home and lay down on the sofa, expecting deceased would return every minute. She did not come however, and he, thinking she had gone to the house of a cousin, locked the door and went to bed. He did not see her again till he was shown her lying dead at the Navigation Inn. Deceased was always very excited when she got in drink, which upon an average was about three or four nights a week, when it was very

common with them to have disturbances with her. Deceased, some time ago, frequently threatened to destroy herself. Sarah Claypole of Wilford Road deposed that she helped to strip the body, and she found a severe bruise on the lower part of the back, which might have been done by a fall upon a stake or by a kick. There was also a bruise upon the brow, but beyond what she had mentioned, there were no marks of violence. A juror asked the witness if she saw deceased going towards the water. The witness replied that that was the point upon which she came to give evidence. She saw deceased about twenty minutes to one o'clock on Sunday morning go up to the steps of the bridge. She turned round the wall, and it then struck witness's mind that all was not right. She called a neighbour, Mr Perkins, who looked for her several minutes, but they could see nothing of her after that. She had never seen deceased before, but she recognised her by her apron and dress. The Coroner, in summing up, said there was no doubt that deceased had died by her own act while in a state of intoxication, and the jury agreed in that view – a verdict that she drowned herself whilst in an unsound state of mind being returned.

87 June 29 1866

DEATHS At the Union Workhouse on the 13th instant, **Richard Guy**, boatman, aged 24.

88 July 6 1866

SOUTHWELL

PETTY SESSIONS, JUNE 29 **Henry Upton**, boatman, was charged with stealing a couple of fowls, the property of William Marriott of Fiskerton. It appeared that about half past eleven at night the prosecutor, aroused by the barking of a dog, went to his bedroom windows and watched the fowl house, when in a few minutes he saw a man lurking near the building, the birds crying out at the time. He shouted to the man, who eventually made off. The next morning he found the heads of two fowls near the roost, and there were two missing. The prisoner was subsequently apprehended ; and the soles of his boots were found to correspond with the footmarks on prosecutor's premises, and there were fresh marks of blood upon his trousers. The prisoner, when taken into custody, denied the robbery, and he now called a witness who gave him a character for good conduct extending over 12 years. The Bench sentenced him to one month's imprisonment.

89 October 19 1866

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE QUARTER SESSIONS

FELONY AT SNEINTON **George Cooke** alias **William Wilson**, 20, boatman, was indicted for stealing a knife, 8 lb of beef, a loaf of bread and other articles, the property of William Pride, at Sneinton on the 23rd September 1866. Mr Horace Smith prosecuted. The case had partially proceeded when it was found there was a defect in the indictment, and the jury, by direction of the court, returned a verdict of Not Guilty, the chairman telling prisoner that he hoped his narrow escape would be a salutary warning to him for the rest of his life.

90 December 28 1866

DEATHS On the 13th inst, **William Beeston**, boatman, aged 68.

91 February 8 1867

FARNDON

ACCIDENT On Friday afternoon last, **Joseph Parker**, boatman, was riding along the hauling path at Farnon on horseback, the path being flooded, when the horse stumbled and fell. Parker fell under the animal in the water, and his right ankle was very seriously sprained, so that he had to be taken to hospital at Newark.

92 February 22 1867

DERBY ANGLERS' CLUB The committee of this old established club, for preserving the angling of the Derwent below Derby, are actively engaged in preparations for the forthcoming season. The

Right Hon the Earl of Harrington, who takes much interest in the welfare of the club, has forbidden any further dredging, so that the fish will be no longer disturbed upon their spawning beds, as has been the case during the past three or four years by the boats engaged in getting gravel. Anglers will be glad to learn that the unwelcome presence of the boatmen and gravel getters will be spared them after March next. Increased means will be used to stop illegal fishing and every prospect is afforded of a successful season. Gentlemen who have received circulars, and others who wish to join the club, will oblige by making an early application to the secretary.

93 March 1 1867

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

BEER HOUSE OFFENCE Mrs Nutt, the landlady of "The Boat", Old Lenton, was charged with an infringement of her licence, by opening her house for the sale of beer after eleven o'clock at night on the 15th inst. PC Eyre was called to prove the offence. He said he found several boatmen, a pig killer named Lakin, and another man named Jackson, a neighbour of Mrs Nutt, in the tap room drinking beer from cans at half past eleven o'clock at night. The defence was that the boatmen were *bona fide* travellers ; that Lakin (who it appeared numbered with the occupation of pig killing the professions of bell ringing and grave digging) had been called in by the landlady in reference to some matters of business ; and that Jackson was called in as was frequently the case to weigh out some hay for the boatmen. The evidence as to the beer upon the table was very conflicting ; in the end, the defendant was fined 15s.

ROBBERY FROM A BOAT George Cooke was charged with stealing a jacket, the property of **Thomas Needham**. On last Monday he left his boat at the Trent Lock in the parish of Sneinton, and went home to sleep that night. He left the boat at 8 o'clock, and no one was on board. On the following morning he returned to his boat at about 6 o'clock and missed his jacket. On the same day, the prosecutor met the prisoner and said to him, "You are wearing my jacket", to which he replied, "I have put it on for a little bit as my own is shabby". The prisoner was not given into custody until some days afterwards. Mr Milward (the magistrate) said that as the prisoner had not been given into custody when first seen with the jacket on by the prosecutor, he (the magistrate) was obliged to acquit the prisoner as a jury would not convict on that account. The prisoner was accordingly discharged.

94 June 7 1867

NEWARK COUNTY COURT

EQUITY CASE **John Maul** of Gunthorpe, boatman v **William Parks** of the same place, boatman. This was a plaint in equity, praying for a dissolution and winding up of a partnership between the parties. The plaint was filed by Mr Belk of Nottingham. Mr Ashley, on behalf of the defendant, admitted the allegation contained in the petition, and submitted to the judgement of the court. His Honour ordered that the accounts be filed, and gone through by the registrar of the court.

95 June 14 1867

DEATHS At East Retford on the 27th, **Emma Charlotte**, youngest daughter of **Mr James Clarke**, boatman.

96 June 28 1867

DEATHS At Newark on the 22nd, **Job Mallet**, boatman, Pelham Street, aged 72.

97 September 20 1867

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A POLICEMAN At the Public Office at Birmingham on Saturday, James Fore, a shearer 35 years of age, was charged with having, in company with four men not in custody, assaulted Policeman Jackson and thrown him into the canal on Tuesday night last at the Friday Bridge in Birmingham. Jackson stated that while on duty by the side of the canal

he was attacked by five men, who struck him with some weapon (a stick probably) on the side, kicked and boxed him, knocked him down, kicked him while down, and when he was disabled lifted him up, carried him to the brink of the canal and dropped him in. He became unconscious in the water, but he afterwards learned that he was picked out by a boatman and sent in a cab to the hospital, where he recovered. He could not identify the prisoner ; he did not know any of the men who attacked him. The witnesses for the prosecution were two lads, who said they were unknown to each other. One named Henry Padmore, being in the neighbourhood of Friday Bridge on Tuesday night, and having just heard that a policeman had been thrown into the canal, saw the prisoner running away. He suspected the prisoner, followed him, overtook him, and asked him "What was up". The prisoner said, "I have been throwing a policeman into the canal because he arrested a friend of mine". Witness asked prisoner's name, and prisoner said, "Fox". Witness made no attempt to stop the man, but ran some distance beside him, and then turned round and went to the police office, where he told what he had seen and heard. Although it was only eleven o'clock at night, there was not a single person to be seen in the street while witness was in company with the prisoner. The other lad said he heard five men at a street corner agree to attack Jackson, who was walking by the side of the canal not far off. One of the men, speaking of Jackson, said, "That is the fellow as took him". The five men went towards Jackson, and witness followed cautiously to observe them. They attacked Jackson, beat him, and threw him into the canal. Prisoner was one of the men. The defence was an alibi. It was evident that the magistrates placed little reliance on the story of the first lad, and had some doubts about the weight to be given to the other boy's testimony. They discharged the prisoner.

98 October 11 1867

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO A BOATMAN AT GUNTHORPE A very serious accident occurred on Tuesday to a man named **George Kirkham**, a boatman residing at Old Lenton. It seems he was engaged with a boat which was being drawn down the Trent at Gunthorpe, and another boat coming up at the same time, the two ropes came into contact and stopped the boat which Kirkham was in with such force that it pitched him upon his head. When taken up he was quite insensible. He was removed to the General Hospital, where it was found that he had sustained a compound fracture of the skull.

99 October 11 1867

DEATHS At Claypole Workhouse on the 4th inst, **William Horspool**, boatman, aged 87.

100 November 29 1867

DEATHS At Newark on the 20th inst, **Benjamin Heaton**, boatman, King Street, aged 54.

101 January 24 1868

SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM

POOR LAW OFFENCES **William Hickman**, a boatman, was charged with allowing his wife to become chargeable to the common fund of Basford Union. Mr Gosling, the relieving officer, said the defendant was fully able to maintain his wife. He formerly held a good situation at Arnold, but became connected with a servant girl, which resulted in his quarrelling with his wife and leaving the locality. Witness understood that the defendant had since been living with a woman at Newark. Defendant denied the latter statement, and said he was with his boat at Farndon. Mr Milward asked whether the wife would be satisfied with 3s 6d per week. The wife, a rather comely looking person, asked for 4s per week. The Bench then directed the man to pay the costs of the proceedings, and allow the wife 4s per week.

102 February 21 1868

POLICE OFFICE, NOTTINGHAM

ANOTHER CASE Joseph Mann, 14, was charged with throwing stones on to the deck of one of

Mr Hammersley's boats, in the basin on the London Road, on the previous night. **George Milner**, a boatman in Mr Hammersley's employ, gave evidence in support of the charge, and said he caught the prisoner in the act. A number of stones had just been thrown before, one of which struck the witness's wife, and a second struck a man. The Bench fined him 10s ; in default he was imprisoned for seven days.

103 February 21 1868

BANKRUPTS TO SURRENDER IN THE COUNTRY

Brittan, John, Fiskerton, Nottinghamshire, boatman.

104 February 28 1868

SUSPECTED MURDER NEAR DERBY About eleven o'clock on Tuesday evening, a man coming along the Derby and Nottingham Canal in a boat observed something floating on the water at the back of Mr Greensmith's flour mill on the Nottingham Road, which, on closer inspection, turned out to be the nearly naked body of a man. The body was shortly afterwards taken out and conveyed to the dead house. There are many most unmistakeable marks of violence on the body, and there is a cord drawn tightly round the neck, and part of a narrow woollen muffler. The clothing on the body consisted of a shirt which the boatman tore in trying to pull up to the side ; but a wristband still remains on one wrist. There was also a pair of trousers which had been turned down some distance, indicating, perhaps, that an attempt had been made to pull them off. The wounds on the person of the deceased, which is greatly swollen and must have been immersed for several days, include a large gash just under the right ear, another on the right groin, and several more cuts about the legs and arms ; besides which one thigh is dislocated. The police are zealously making all possible inquiries in order to find out who the unfortunate man is, and where he belongs to.

105 February 28 1868

BODIES FOUND IN THE ROCHDALE CANAL On Friday morning at a quarter to eight o'clock, the body of a young woman was found in the Rochdale Canal near David Street, Manchester. The deceased had evidently been in the water several days. Her features were much disfigured. Nothing was found upon the body that could give a clue to the name of the deceased. Whilst the boatmen were removing the body to the Mechanics' Arms Inn, Chorlton Street, others who were working a boat near to that street found the body of a young and well dressed man in the water. This body was also removed to the Mechanics' Arms to await an inquest. A watch and about £3 in money were found in the deceased's pockets. His face was much disfigured ; but it is not yet known whether the injuries have been caused by a boat's keel or by blows. A letter was found in his pocket, dated Blackpool, December 27 1867, and written by a person signing the name of "T T Thompson". The letter refers to patterns of cloth about which the writer and the deceased had been in correspondence, and it is addressed to "My dear Tom".

106 March 6 1868

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A BOATMAN On Tuesday afternoon, Mr H Browne, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the Hospital touching the death of **Benjamin Rose**. It appeared that he and another man named **Cuckson** had charge of a boat laden with timber, from Gainsborough to Nottingham. When near to Newark, the sails by some means got loose. Deceased was engaged in tightening them, when the chain broke, the pulley and staple falling upon him. His skull was fractured, and he was removed to the Hospital, where he died on the 28th ult. Mr Millbourne, assistant house surgeon, said the cause of death was inflammation and softening of the brain resulting from the injuries he had received. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

107 March 6 1868

DEATHS On the 26th ult, **Mary**, wife of **Mr William Eyre**, boatman, King Street, aged 57.

NOTTINGHAM ASSIZES

VIOLENT ASSAULT AND ROBBERY AT WORKSOP **John Camsall**, 20, boatman, was charged with assaulting William Holmes, and stealing from his person £7, two purses, a pair of spectacles and other articles, his property, at Worksop on the 12th of February last. Mr Mellor was counsel for the prosecution ; the prisoner not being defended. The prosecutor is a travelling musician, and on the night of the day named he was playing with some of his companions at the Lion Hotel, Worksop. Towards eleven o'clock he went away, and called at the Old Bull public house, and asked the landlord if he could let him have a spare bed for the night. He replied he had not one properly aired. The prisoner was in the house at the time, and he told him he might go with him. He agreed to do so, and went to his house at about three o'clock in the morning. He slept in a back room and placed his clothes on a box ; the only fixture, except the bed, in it. He put his gold watch and chain beside his clothes on the box, and also a pair of spectacles. He had two purses, one of which contained about two pounds in silver, and the other about four pounds in gold, in his pockets. There were also some other things. After having been in bed a short time, he turned to the prisoner and asked him to give him his trousers with which to "prop" up his head, when he saw them in his hands, and the purses besides. He exclaimed, "Hello! There, what are you doing? Have you brought me here as a friend, or have you brought me here to rob me?" He replied, "You have robbed me". He got out of bed and tried to take the trousers and purses from him, when he commenced a most violent assault upon him ; kicking him terribly on all parts of the body. He called out, "Murder", and the mother and father and a little boy came to the door, but the former would not interfere. The boy however said, "Do let the poor man go". He struggled with the prisoner as far as he was able, and eventually got out of the house ; his watch and chain then being placed on a wire which had been put in a bed post. He managed to secure this, and after he had gone away he went near to the canal, but immediately after the prisoner again accosted him, and swore he would drown him ; "to keep him", as he said, "from blabbing". He begged of him to let him go ; telling him that he had done quite enough, and at last he did. He said, however, if he had been taken he knew of a dodge that would kill his ---- pig. He went back to the Old Bull public house, and his shirt was saturated with blood. He told them there what had happened, and shortly after the police were communicated with. The prisoner cross-examined the prosecutor at some length with a view of trying to prove that the prosecutor endeavoured to take very improper liberties with him, but the prosecutor emphatically denied attempting to do anything of the kind. PC Raisin of Worksop stated that in consequence of receiving information he went to the Old Black Bull at about 4 o'clock in the morning in question, and found the prosecutor there. He was the worse for liquor and had been severely ill used, and his shirt was literally covered with blood. From there he, accompanied by the prosecutor, went to the prisoner's and found a pen knife and a stud in the front bedroom belonging to the prosecutor. In the back room he found a pool of blood and some human hair on the floor. His mother gave him a pin and a neck tie also belonging to the prosecutor. He apprehended prisoner, and at the lock up found a purse containing 3s 1d upon him, and a key. There was some blood about him. By the prisoner : When he came into the house, he saw his mother, and could not say whether he told her what he wanted him for, He went with him quietly to the police station. PC Holloway gave corroborative evidence, and said he found the prosecutor's pencil case on the bedroom floor. Mr Superintendent Wimant stated that the key found upon the prisoner unlocked the box in the back bedroom, and when he searched it, he discovered in it four half crowns, two florins, a shilling or two, and a purse containing a sovereign. The prisoner in defence alleged that the prosecutor was so drunk that he did not know what he was doing. He then called his father, who stated that soon after the prosecutor and his son had got into the bedroom, he heard the latter call out that the prosecutor had got his purse and trousers in his hand. The prisoner's brother Robert stated that when the prosecutor had his brother's purse in his hand, he (prisoner) asked him for it, but he would not give it him, upon which he tried to take it from him ; hence it was the scuffle took place. By Mr Mellor : He called out, "Do let the poor man go". The prisoner further reminded the jury that the prosecutor was drunk, and observed that he had a "man" to plead

for him at Worksop, who said if the case was sent before a jury he must get off. (Laughter). His Lordship, in summing up, said the case was in some respects an extraordinary one. There was no doubt that a struggle took place between the prosecutor and the prisoner, and that a violent assault had been committed, but how that had begun was a question which the jury would have to carefully consider. Whatever was done was done by the prisoner ; but he had brought a counter case charging the prosecutor with taking his purse, and which he had contended gave rise to the struggle. The jury returned a verdict of Guilty, and the prisoner said he hoped his Lordship would deal with him as leniently as he could. His Lordship, in passing sentence upon him, said the only mitigation at all which he saw in the case was that he was not probably sober at the time of the offence, and, therefore, he was not thoroughly under self control when he commenced the struggle ; but in his sober moments he had done that which had induced him not to mitigate the punishment. In order to screen himself, he had made an infamous charge, in public court, against the prosecutor, which he had emphatically, indignantly and, so far as human observation went, truthfully repudiated. The sentence of the Court was that he be kept in penal servitude for five years.

109 June 5 1868

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT 1861

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

HOLDEN AT NEWARK In the matter of **John Brittain** of Fiskerton in the County of Nottingham, boatman, adjudged bankrupt on the Thirteenth day of February 1868.

An Order of Discharge will be delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless an appeal be duly entered against the judgement of the Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court.

110 June 26 1868

MYSTERIOUS CASE OF DROWNING AT LENTON On Wednesday afternoon, Mr Coroner Heath held an inquest at the Rose and Crown Inn, Old Lenton, on the body of Jane Ann Winson, aged 14, who was found drowned in the canal. Maria Winson, the mother of the deceased, stated that she was a single woman living in Orchard Street, New Radford. The deceased was a gimp weaver, and had been in the employ of Mr Clarke, Alfreton Road. On Friday night she scolded the deceased for neglecting her work and not coming home at tea time. She said she had been waiting for "stuff". A fortnight before she had stayed out on Sunday night until eleven o'clock, and when she got home she chastised her. She promised to be a better girl. Last Saturday morning she was taking her to her work, when she slipped her and ran down Blooms Grove Street. She afterwards inquired at Clarke's whether she had been to work, but found out that she had not. She made further inquiries about her, but without any result, until Tuesday afternoon, when she was informed that her body had been taken out of the canal. Last winter the deceased attempted to drown herself in the Trent near the Trent Bridges at Nottingham. Since that time she had threatened to leave home, and had told some of the girls with whom she worked that she would drown herself. She had been a very bad girl. Had borrowed money in her (witness's) name without her permission, and had told a great many stories. **George Whitby** of Mill Street, Poplar, Nottingham, boatman, stated that on Tuesday afternoon he was returning with a boat on the canal from Radford to Nottingham, and at the lock below Radford Bridge he saw the body of the deceased floating in the water. He dropped both paddles immediately, and got out the body, and laid it on the lock side. Benjamin Dexter of Old Radford, lace maker, stated that on Saturday morning, a few minutes past 11 o'clock, he saw the deceased sitting on the lock in question. A man was sitting on the opposite side, and soon after he came across and sat close to her. He did not see them speak. Witness bathed a short distance from the lock, and the man came and watched him. Upon returning, the man placed himself a few yards from the deceased. He did not know the man. He noticed that the girl looked very downcast. This concluded the evidence. The Coroner observed to the jury that it would perhaps be as well to adjourn the inquest, in order to secure the attendance of the girls to whom the deceased represented that she intended destroying herself. It was evident there was something behind the scenes,

inasmuch as it was hardly conceivable that a young girl like the deceased would run away from her work and throw herself into the water. The Jury coincided with the Coroner's opinion, and the inquiry was thereupon adjourned until next Wednesday.

111 August 14 1868

INQUEST ON A BOY DROWNED AT RADFORD On Monday evening, Mr T Stevenson, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the Windmill Inn, New Radford, on the body of Thomas Pass, who was drowned in the Wollaton Canal on Sunday. A witness named Leitchfield, who was with him at the time, stated that he had gone over the gates of the locks, and, whilst attempting to return, he fell into the water and was drowned. Another witness, Mr Beardsley, deposed that he procured a drag, and assisted in getting the body out. He stated that two men – strangers – were standing by, and saw the boy drowning without offering the least assistance towards saving his life ; and he considered that they were highly censurable for their inhuman conduct. The jury returned a verdict of “Accidentally drowned”, and recommended that some guard be placed upon the lock gates, to prevent persons crossing over them at the risk of their lives.

112 August 14 1868

FATAL ACCIDENT AT CARLTON-ON-TRENT On Tuesday morning, W Newton Esq, district coroner, held an inquest at the Great Northern Inn, Carlton-on-Trent, on the body of **Joseph Curtis** of that place. Deceased, who was a boatman, was 46 years of age. On the previous day he had been engaged in his usual occupation, and had undoubtedly imbibed too freely of drink. On the way home, he begged a ride with a person of the name of Longmate, who was carrying some wheat to the Carlton Mills, and got on the back of his cart, where he sat on some wheat. Whilst putting his hand in his pocket for some purpose or other, he overbalanced himself and pitched head foremost off the cart. The cart was immediately stopped, but not before one of the wheels had gone over the unfortunate man's head, crushed his skull, and bespattered his brains on the road. Death was instantaneous. A verdict in accordance with these facts was returned.

113 September 11 1868

BINGHAM JUSTICE ROOM, SATURDAY **James Onions**, a boatman, charged by William Brooks, gamekeeper to the Earl of Chesterfield, with trespassing in pursuit of game on land in the occupation of Mr Hassall of Shelford Manor, was fined 20s, including costs, which he paid.

114 September 11 1868

FATAL FIGHT – VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER An inquest has just been concluded before the Leicestershire coroner, Mr J Gregory, on the body of **John Brain**, a boatman from Henshaw, who lost his life in a fight at Moira, a place noted for its mineral springs, a short distance from Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire. It seemed from the evidence of Jos Beauchamp of Oxford and Jos Bye of Challens, Berks, deceased's and prisoner's seconds, that on Wednesday night Brain and a man named William Butlin, a collier, differed and fought together, and agreed to finally settle the matter on the following morning. On Thursday morning, deceased called upon Butlin, stating that “he was ready”. Butlin said he did not want to fight, and began to cry. Deceased replied that he would kill the prisoner if he came out, and then stripped. Deceased and the prisoner, together with 12 or 14 others, went into an old brickfield, where the prisoner also stripped, and the two fought two rounds and fell, deceased being underneath, and his head coming in contact with a brick. They were lifted up, and in the course of the third round (during which both received blows on the chest &c), deceased fell to the ground, saying, “I have done ; the back of my head is so bad”. He never spoke again, and after being removed into the shade, died in the course of a few minutes. Dr C Wall spoke to deceased's skull having been fractured, and there being an extravasation of blood on deceased's brain, the result of violence, and in all probability arising from the effects of the fall on the back of the head during the second round. The jury returned a verdict of “Manslaughter” against Butlin, who was committed for trial by the coroner to the next assizes on that charge.

115 September 25 1868

DEATHS At Fiskerton on the 18th, **Elizabeth**, wife of **Mr John Hunt**, boatman, aged 71.

116 October 9 1868

FOUR CHILDREN SHOT AT LEICESTER A wanton and cruel case of shooting occurred at Leicester on Thursday afternoon. In accordance with annual custom, it being Leicester races, the children of the various Sunday Schools spent part of the day in the fields in the suburbs of the town. Amongst these were the Bishop Street (Wesleyan Methodist) Sunday Schools, the teachers and scholars of which, in the course of the afternoon, repaired to a field near the Abbey Meadow, which field abuts on the canal. Between four and five o'clock the teachers were startled by hearing the report of a gun and the rattling of the shots on the windows and roof of a factory hard by, and on going towards the canal they were shocked to find that four of their scholars had been shot by a youth who was in charge of a boat that was passing along the canal. The names of the children are :- Edwin Brown, aged 12, Arthur Bull, 13, Emma Ford, and John Shelton, 9. They were at once removed from the field, and Dr Crane, who fortunately happened to be passing at the time, took the injured children Brown and Ford into his carriage to the surgery of Mr J R Crossley, where their injuries were attended to. It was found that the boy Brown was most seriously injured, and was suffering acutely from numerous wounds in his face, one shot having entered just beneath the right eye, another had penetrated the ball of the right eye, one of his front teeth was shot out, and nine shots had entered his cheeks. He was removed home in a cab. Emma Ford was found not to have been dangerously wounded, although one of the shots had entered her face near the right eye. The other two boys, Shelton and Bull, were both likewise shot in the face, but their injuries were not of a serious character, and they were escorted to their homes. While the wounded children were being attended to, one of the teachers followed the boat, which he overtook at Belgrave and boarded. He caused the boat to be stopped, detained the cowardly fellow of whom he was in pursuit, and then sent for assistance. On the arrival of the Belgrave parish constable, the boatman was given into his custody, and by him taken to the police station at Leicester. The prisoner, who appeared to be the worse for drink, gave the name of **Charles Mitchell**, and said he came from Cleethorpes, and was 17 years old. On hearing the charge against him, he stated that as he was passing along the canal by the side of the field, the children threw stones at him, and as they took no heed of his remonstrances but persisted in annoying him, he took up a gun which lay loaded in his boat and fired amongst them. The prisoner was brought before the magistrates and remanded.

117 October 16 1868

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

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

118 October 30 1868

NEWARK AND RETFORD DISTRICT SESSIONS

ROBBERIES BY BOATMEN AT RETFORD Joseph Blower (22), labourer, and **Robert Johnson** (29), boatman, were indicted with having, on the 5th September last, stolen three hundredweight of linseed cake, the property of **William Farr**, at Clarborough. They both pleaded not guilty. Mr Lawrence was counsel for the prosecution, and opened the case by a statement of the facts. Mr Mellors defended Johnson only. **William Cordell**, boatman, said he was with Birkett's boat on the 5th September on the Retford Canal, and prisoner's boat was alongside his, laden with Shireoaks coal. There were then no oilcakes on the coal. Thomas Hindley said that at twelve o'clock on Saturday the 5th, he saw the prisoners go from the Anchor Inn to their boat. **Ann Hackett** said her husband's boat was moored at Welham bridge on the 5th September. They made their boat fast about half past eleven, and then went to sleep. At half past one she was wakened by another boat bumping against theirs. She saw Johnson in a pleasure boat alongside, and she asked him what he was after. He crossed their boat into his own, which was laden with coal. While witness suckled the baby he went away. In half an hour she heard a foot, and on looking out saw Blower leading the horse, and Johnson steering the boat from Retford. The boat head was towards Clarborough at first. The second time he passed I said to him, "Bob Johnson, by God, you've been doing it tonight ; poor Billy Farr will have to suffer for this". I said that because I saw the linseed cake, and had that night seen Farr's boat laden with cake. I knew Johnson had no cake on board when I first saw him. Sarah Ann Clifton of the Gate Inn, Clarborough : On Sunday the 6th September, at seven o'clock, witness saw Johnson, who asked for some beer. His boat was lying just above the wharf. Blower was there. They had not come at half past nine the previous night. They left between eight and nine. About three in the morning, they were disturbed by someone who wanted beer, but did not know who it was. They had a stable which was left unlocked. William Farr, boatman, said one of his boats was taken to Clater's wharf laden with cake, on the 5th. On Tuesday he weighed it out and found 3 cwt short. There were different sorts of cake on board. The light coloured was to be delivered to Mr Clater. **William Pashley**, a youth who was in charge of Farr's boat on the 5th, said he left the boat at Clater's wharf all night on Saturday. Next morning about ten o'clock he missed some of the cake. Same evening, under the bridge near the Gate Inn, he saw some cake dust. William Clater, cake dealer, said he had some cake brought to him by Farr. There was 9 tons 17 cwt, and there ought to have been 10 tons. He had been shown some cake by the police, and after careful comparison, he believed it was his. PC Webster produced some cake dust found on the planks and coal of prisoner's boat. On Monday he found 45 cakes of linseed in the water. (Mr Clater said 45 was the number of cakes missing). The learned counsel having addressed the jury, the Chairman concisely summed up the case. Blower made no defence beyond saying that "he knew nothing at all about it". The jury found both persons guilty. Two previous convictions of felony were proved against Johnson. The same prisoners were further charged with stealing a quantity of coal, value 4s, the property of Robert Jackson of East Retford, in September last, and also with stealing 6 stones weight of beans and 4 stones of bran, value 10s 6d, the property of William Cordall, at East Retford on the 6th September last, but as they had been convicted on the former charge, Mr Lawrence did not offer any

further evidence. There being two previous convictions against Johnson and three charges today, the court regarded him as a confirmed depredator in this line, and sentenced him to seven years' penal servitude. On hearing the sentence prisoner burst into tears, exclaiming that he had four children, and subsequently he yielded to the most frantic expressions of grief, wringing his hands and stamping like a lunatic. His sister, who happened to be in court, was also much affected, and fainted. Blower, not having been previously convicted, was sentenced to three months' hard labour, the last week solitary confinement.

119 October 30 1868

THE CHARGE OF SHOOTING AT FOUR CHILDREN IN LEICESTER At the Leicester adjourned Borough Sessions on Tuesday, before Mr C G Merewether, the newly appointed recorder (in the place of Mr Justice Hayes), **Charles Mitchell**, 16, boatman, was charged with maliciously shooting at Edwin Brown, aged 12, on the 1st October. Mr Jacques prosecuted, and Mr Inglesant defended the prisoner. It will be remembered that the above day being the Leicester Races, the children of the Wesleyan Sunday School, of which prosecutor was one, were playing in a field adjoining the Leicester Canal, and that some were amusing themselves by throwing stones into the water, and others by playing at "duck and drake" - skimming the water with stones - when the prisoner came along in a boat which he was steering. He went to the cabin, fetched out a gun, and took aim at the children, but the charge did not go off. He, however, cocked the gun a second time, and firing, the shot took effect in the face of the prosecutor, causing severe injuries to his right eye, and also wounding in various parts of the body Arthur Bull, 13, John Shelton, 9 and Emma Food, 8. When prisoner was captured, he said if the child had lived he would have paid the doctor's bill. On several occasions he likewise said he did not know that the gun was loaded, and that as it was the first time he had had a gun in his hand, he did not think he could have aimed so straight, and he only wished the shot had gone over their heads. The prosecutor, who was most injured, was attended by Mr Crossley, whose assistant (Mr Robinson) described the character of the injuries. Mr Inglesant, for the defence, urged that the prisoner had no idea that the gun was loaded when he fired amongst the children. The Jury found the prisoner Guilty, and the learned Recorder, after giving him a severe reprimand, sentenced him to six months' hard labour as, notwithstanding the charge was a serious one, he did not even now seem to comprehend the position in which he had been placed.

120 November 6 1868

DEATHS At Newark, on the 24th ult, **Eliza**, wife of **Mr James Hartley**, boatman, Jalland's Row, aged 45.

121 January 1 1869

EXECUTION AT LINCOLN The extreme penalty of the law was carried out in Lincoln on Monday, the culprit being Priscilla Biggadike, who was at the recent assizes convicted of the murder of her husband, Richard Biggadike, by poisoning at Stickney, on the 1st of October last, and for which sentence of death was passed upon her. The particulars of this fearful crime were reported in our columns at the time of the trial ; but a resume thereof must possess an interest, though of a melancholy nature, and we therefore again present them to our readers.

The scene of the sad tragedy was the village of Stickney, which is about midway between Boston and Spilsby. The unfortunate victim was, as we have already stated, Richard Biggadike, the husband of the wretched woman who was visited with punishment in the manner above named. They (the prisoner and the deceased) resided in the centre of the village of Stickney, and although he was a well sinker in the receipt of good wages, it appears they had two male lodgers in their house - one named Thomas Procter, a rat catcher, and the other a boatman named **George Ironmonger**, aged about 20. The state of these people revealed a sad instance of the overcrowding of dwelling houses - Biggadike, his wife and three children occupying one bed in the single chamber which the house possessed, and Procter and Ironmonger also occupying a bed in the same compartment, separated by about only 18 inches from the other bed. This sad state of depravity

may, in some little degree, account for the fearful end which resulted. Biggadike and his wife appear to have lived comfortably together until a few months before October last, when Biggadike began to entertain suspicions of his wife's fidelity, which she was fully aware of and indeed, on one occasion, he was heard to remark that the child which she was suckling was not his, to which she made answer that if it was not his, it was hers. Biggadike also, on the occasion of his wife showing to a neighbour a dress which she had obtained, remarked that it (the dress) was not purchased with his money, to which she replied that it was not, but that he who had bought it was "a fine man when he'd got his black clothes on". Subsequently Mrs Biggadike remarked to another neighbour that she could not "abide" her husband, and she wished that he might be brought home dead – that he might be brought home "stiff". Some unhappy quarrels also took place between the couple, and only a day or so before the 1st of October the prisoner, in speaking of the poisoning case in which the Garners (from the same neighbourhood) were some years ago concerned, remarked that the poison in that instance was not detected. On the evening of the 30th September, Biggadike, who was a fine looking fellow in the full vigour of life, left his employment apparently in his usual good state of health. When he arrived at home he partook of his tea alone, his wife and the two lodgers having previously taken tea, and the lodgers in the meantime having gone out to fish. Within half an hour of the poor fellow having had his meal, he was seized with a most violent retching and vomiting, and he declared that he could not live long in that state. A surgeon (Mr Maxwell) was sent for, and although the remedies applicable to cases of poisoning were administered, Biggadike, after enduring most fearful agony for about twelve hours, had to succumb to the hand of death. The surgeon suspected foul play had been at work, and he secured Biggadike's vomit, his stomach, and other internal parts, and forwarded them to Dr Alfred Swaine Taylor, the eminent analytical chemist, who at the trial stated his opinion that Biggadike's death had resulted from the administration of arsenic, of which he said probably from 30 to 40 grains had been given to the deceased, although from two to three grains was sufficient to cause the death of an adult. The woman had throughout maintained a tacit indifference to what was going on around her. Even when she saw the frightful agony which was being experienced by the man whom she had sworn to love, honour and obey, she was unmoved, nor did she fret after his death, until some of the neighbours showed signs of grief. These circumstances, coupled with the fact that she had some time in June or July offered to give to a friend some white mercury to destroy mice, pointed to the woman as the perpetrator of the vile act of poisoning her husband. She was therefore apprehended, and on three separate occasions she made different statements – the first (to the Coroner) that "There was no poison in the house to her knowledge" ; the second (to Superintendent Wright) that she had found a paper in her husband's pocket stating that "he had done the deed himself, because he was so much in debt", but it was well known that the deceased could not write, and it was ascertained that he did not owe anything ; while the third statement (made to the Governor of Spilsby Gaol) was to the effect that she saw Thomas Procter, one of the lodgers, put some powder into her husband's tea on the night named, and subsequently also pour some powder into his medicine. Procter was committed for trial along with Mrs Biggadike on the charge of wilfully murdering Richard Biggadike, but the Grand Jury threw out the bill against Procter. A long and patient trial was given to the case as against the female prisoner. The counsellor employed to defend her made an earnest appeal to the jury in her behalf, but it was all in vain. There was not a shadow of a doubt that she was guilty, and the jury hesitated but for a few minutes ere they gave a verdict of guilty against her, and although they recommended her to mercy it was only on the grounds that the evidence was circumstantial. Mt Justice Byles, before whom the case was tried, admitted that the evidence was circumstantial, but he said he had never in his life heard more satisfactory and conclusive testimony, and in passing sentence of death upon her, he urged her to prepare by attending to the religious instruction which she would receive. She had not betrayed the slightest emotion throughout the hearing of the trial, and she only made a small show of grief when sentence was being passed upon her. Since awaiting execution she has maintained the utmost composure, eating and sleeping well, and when she was informed of the day of the end of her earthly career, she simply asked was that all the time she would be allowed. The Rev W H Richter,

the chaplain of the gaol, was constantly in attendance upon her, but she showed no signs whatever of repentance. Three sisters and a brother of the wretched woman visited her on Saturday last, and remained with her about two hours and a half, urging her to confess if she was guilty, but she was obdurate in the extreme. George Ironmonger, one of the witnesses at the trial as a lodger of the Biggadikes, presented himself at the Castle for the purpose of having an interview with her, but he was refused admittance. Monday was appointed for the carrying out of the sentence, and precisely at a quarter to nine o'clock a m a procession was formed from the gaol to the place of execution. The greatest possible privacy was maintained, only the following persons being present, viz, Mr J F Burton, the Under Sheriff ; Mr Foster, the governor of the gaol ; and Mr E F Broadbent, surgeon at the gaol, leading the way ; then followed the Rev W H Richter, the chaplain, and Mr Clegg, the coroner before whom the inquisition upon Biggadike's body was held. The chaplain was reading the impressive service for the burial of the dead. Next followed the miserable culprit, supported on each side by a warder of the Castle ; three representatives of the press, and a solitary bailiff bringing up the rear. As the melancholy procession was formed and proceeded at a slow and measured pace, the Castle bell tolled its mournful notes. The prisoner, who was somewhat paler than at the time of her trial, was dressed in a white cap, a black gown and black stockings, and wore a pair of leather boots. She walked the whole of the distance from the gaol to the place of execution, about 200 yards, moaning piteously. When she had gone about half the distance, she asked one of the warders if they had much farther to go. On arriving at the foot of the scaffold, which was erected at the south end of the County Hall, and where it was impossible for any outsiders to obtain a glimpse of the proceedings even from the top of the Cathedral towers, the Chaplain exhorted her to confess, and she said she had confessed her sins to God and should not confess them to man. The Chaplain further asked her if she still persisted in asserting her innocence of the fearful crime which she was about to expiate in such an ignominious manner ; to which she replied she had nothing whatever to do with it. The chaplain still further exhorted her, and said he hoped she would confess, so that she might receive forgiveness ; but she replied that she never gave the poison to her husband, and had no hand in it. The rev gentleman then said, "Do you still persist in that statement?", and she replied, "I do". He then said, "I have done my duty in the matter. It now rests between yourself and the Almighty, and I must leave you with your God". The wretched culprit was then led up to the scaffold, between the two warders, but although each held her slightly by the arm, she walked up with a firm step. On placing her under the fatal beam, and during the process of pinioning her legs, she said, "Oh, surely my troubles are over! Surely my troubles are ended? Surely you won't hang me!" This process was going on when the quarters of the hour of nine were striking by the Minster clock, and the "Big Tom" had given two strokes of the hour, when the bolt was withdrawn and the wretched woman was launched into eternity. The moment that the trap gave way a slight shriek was heard and also a gurgling in the throat of the culprit for a few seconds, and then all was over.

An impression was at first entertained that the executioner (Askern of York) had fixed the noose in the wrong place, but it was evident that death resulted in less than three minutes ; and on Askern being questioned, he explained that his mode of adjusting the noose was to place it under the chin and not under the right ear, as adopted by some executioners. This had caused some of the few spectators present to imagine that he had made a blunder. The culprit, however, neither struggled hand nor foot, a slight muscular action of the body for about two minutes being all that was discernible to those around.

The black flag was hoisted from the tower immediately after the drop fell, and continued to float gloomily upon the breeze for an hour afterwards, when it was drawn down, and the body was cut down from the scaffold.

From a conversation which the newspaper reporters had with the Governor of the gaol after the execution, it appears that the wretched woman had dictated a letter to George Ironmonger, one of their lodgers, and who was suspected by some persons to be her paramour, in which she implored him to seek from God forgiveness of his sins, to deplore her sad end, and to look for those left behind her.

Although it was well known that the execution would be carried out in private, some hundreds of

people were assembled out of curiosity on the Castle Hill, but there was not the least probability of their witnessing the sad ceremony.

THE INQUEST In accordance with the requirements of the Act, Dr Mitchinson, coroner for the county, held an enquiry into the cause of the woman's death ; Mr John Farrow, farmer of Burton, being foreman of the jury.

The enquiry was of a formal nature, and in a great measure consisted of evidence being taken of the identity of the deceased, which was clearly made out by Mr Foster, governor of the gaol, Sergeant Berry of Stickney and Mr Broadbent, surgeon.

The latter gentleman, in reply to a question put to him as to whether the execution was conducted with decency and humanity, said that it was so conducted in his opinion ; but it was a different system to that which he had hitherto seen carried out ; still Askern's system was completely satisfactory to him, and thoroughly humane, and the woman ceased to live within 3 ½ minutes from the bolt being drawn. She breathed, he said, for that time, but she would not be in pain.

A verdict was returned that "Priscilla Biggadike died by hanging, according to law ; and they (the jury) were satisfied she was the person who was sentenced to death for the murder of Richard Biggadike".

122 February 12 1869

SOUTHWELL PETTY SESSIONS, FEBRUARY 5th **Samuel Robinson**, boatman of Newark, was charged by Inspector Blasdale with being drunk and refusing to quit the Waggon and Horses Inn at Fiskerton on the 28th ult. Defendant did not appear, but his master did for him. It seemed from the evidence of Mr Clarke, the publican, that defendant was in his house about two hours, and said he was waiting for his master. He went away and then came back, and because witness would not let him have any more drink, he used bad language and refused to quit. The Bench censured the publican and fined the defendant £1 including costs. The money was paid.

123 April 16 1869

ACCIDENT AT FISKERTON On Saturday afternoon some children were playing near the Trent, when a little boy two years old, son of **Mr Henry Britain**, boatman, fell into the river, and was in the water ten minutes before he was rescued. This was done by a man getting down the wall, the hauling path at that part being 12 or 14 feet above the water. The child was quite insensible when got out, and did not show any signs of life for some minutes ; but, after being rubbed with brandy and salt, he came round, and it is hoped will get over a ducking which was near proving a watery grave. His father and mother were very thankful to the man who so gallantly got him out.

124 May 14 1869

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE NEAR NEWARK A painful sensation was created in the village of Winthorp on Tuesday week, on its being known that Mrs Handley, wife of the Rev William Handley, the rector of the parish, had been found drowned in the river Trent. An inquest was held on view of the body on Wednesday before Mr Coroner Newton, when the following facts were given in evidence. **John Rowbotham** of Shardlow, boatman, said as he was passing down the Trent in a boat, about half past four on Tuesday afternoon, he saw a crinoline and parasol on the bank. He pulled to the side, and found about forty yards lower down the body lying face downwards, the head being partly out of the water. The water was about six feet deep. The deceased's cloak had caught upon the twig of a bush, which held her. He took the body out, which was quite dead, but warm. She appeared to have trampled about a good deal. The grass was rather long. He also found her satchel and one glove upon the bank, as well as the top of a small jewellery box. He noticed on the side of the bank, which was steep, a mark as though she had slipped into the water. There was nothing in the satchel. He directed a man who was on the opposite side of the river to fetch assistance. (A juryman commented severely on the witness's conduct in leaving the body without getting immediate help). Superintendent Osborne produced a gold watch and chain, brooches, a letter and other articles, which he found on the body. The watch had stopped at 1 ½

minutes after 3 o'clock. Charlotte Handley, daughter of the deceased, said she left deceased at half past 11 o'clock in the house, and went with her sister to Newark. Mr Handley had left home, but was there when they returned. Deceased not coming home they made inquiry in the village, and ascertained that she had been seen to go down Holme Lane. They went in that direction and along the fields, when they saw a man, who beckoned to them, and they then found the body. That was a quarter to half past 5 o'clock. Deceased had been in very low spirits and out of health for about five weeks ; she had been subject to those symptoms. She did not appear different on that day. Witness was not aware that anything had occurred that day or recently to affect her mind. The Rev William Handley said he was leaving home about 3 o'clock for the week. He saw deceased the last time about half past twelve o'clock. Nothing had occurred during the day of an unhappy nature between them. The last four or five weeks she had evidenced weakness and lowness of spirits. She had no medical assistance. She did not require it ; her appetite was good. He asked her to take wine and a little brandy, to which she replied nothing but time would do anything for her. He had no reason to suspect that anything of the sort would happen. Eliza Ann Jeffries, servant in the family, spoke to deceased's being low spirited. She complained to her about it a fortnight ago. Harriet Nicholson, who lives at the railway gate house, saw a lady walking on the bank on Tuesday afternoon, but did not know who she was. She stood looking towards the water, and then walked gently on. She saw no more of her. Ann Brothwell saw deceased about two o'clock come from her own house and go down Holme Lane. She thought she seemed curious ; her dress did not seem to be put on in her usual manner. Thomas Wright saw her go down the lane about half past one, and return again in a quarter of an hour. He did not see her again alive. He had often seen her go down the lane. Two of the jurymen spoke of the very decided change which they had noticed in Mrs Handley's conduct during the last few weeks. The jury returned a verdict, "That the deceased drowned herself whilst in an unsound state of mind".

125 July 2 1869

DEATHS At Misterton on the 17th June, **Elizabeth**, wife of **Mr John Clifton**, boatman, aged 67.