

February 27th 1860

On the 23d inst., at Ewell, Surrey, the wife of the Rev. Sir George L. Glyn, Bart., of a daughter.

February 28th 1860

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, Feb. 27
(*Sittings at Nisi Prius, at Guildhall, before the LORD
CHIEF JUSTICE and a Common Jury,*)
DOCKING v. THE BRIGHTON AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY
COMPANY.

Mr. Digby Seymour and Mr. Beresford were for the plaintiff; Mr. Creasy and Mr. Needham for the defendants.

The plaintiff on the last Derby-day was entering the station at Epsom for the purpose of returning to London, when a door through which he was going was, without notice, pushed to, as was alleged by one of the company's servants, and the plaintiff's foot was crushed and seriously injured. The present action was brought to recover damages for the injuries so sustained, which were said to be, if not permanent, at all events likely to remain for some years.

Mr. Creasy, on behalf of the company, denied that the accident had been occasioned by the negligence of the defendants, and detailed the precautions taken on the occasion for the safety of passengers to and from the races.

Evidence was adduced to show that the door was gently pushed to after notice to stand back had been given, and that the plaintiff had, by his own act, in placing his foot between the door and the post, contributed to the accident.

The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff – Damages, 85*l.* 16*s.*

The last case in the list in this court was an action for false imprisonment.

July 7th 1860

House of Commons, Friday, July 6

PETITIONS

Petitions in favour of restricting Sunday trading were presented by Mr. JOHN LOCKE, from inhabitants of Croydon, Beddington, Norwood, Dulwich, Upper and Lower Tooting, Mitcham, and Battersea; by Mr. E. JAMES (6), from traders of various parts of the city of London; and by Lord R. MONTAGUE, from tradesmen of Richmond, Kingston, Surbiton, East Sheen, Mortlake, Barnes, Roehampton, Twickenham, Barnet, Hadley, Hornsely, Edmonton, Tottenham, Enfield, Highgate, Finchley, Carshalton, Penge, Sutton, Ewell, Dorking, Sevenoaks, Riverhead, Haverstock-hill and Hampstead.

January 30th 1861

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE LONDON AND
SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY

On the evening of Monday the 28th a distressing accident occurred on this railway to the Portsmouth express train, which leaves the Waterloo station at 5 10 pm. The train in question was preceded by the 5 p.m. express to Southampton, which proceeded safely to its destination. Unfortunately, however, the 5 10 train ran off the line at the Epsom

Junction about 9 miles from the Waterloo station. The engine passed safely along the line, and was not at all concerned, apparently, in the accident. The tender appears to have mounted the rails close to a bridge about 20 yards from the Epsom Junction, and sweeping completely the parapet of the bridge it fell over into the road beneath. The upper part of the tender containing the water was completely severed from the under side, to which the wheels were attached, and turned upside down into the road. The framework of the tender also fell over, and rested in the road by the side of the tank with the wheels uppermost.

A few yards further on several first and second class carriages left the line and turned over, the bodies being severed from the framework and wheels, the latter being driven much further than the carriages themselves. The ends of the carriages were driven in, and nothing remained at all sound save the middle compartments, which had the cushions and rugs driven about in utter confusion. A tip of one of the buffers had rested in the middle of a first-class carriage. The bank over which the carriages ran was about 20 feet high. Several carriages remained upon the line, two were off the line on to the ballast, the foremost one being partly down the bank on the point of turning over, but fortunately stuck in the soft earth. Pieces of the woodwork of the carriages were scattered about in all directions on the line and down the bank. Altogether, the carriages which ran off were a perfect wreck. Many of the passengers were very seriously injured, and several killed or mortally hurt. One gentleman was found literally crushed to death under a second-class carriage, and a lady travelling by the train was so much hurt that she was removed to a house close by, not being in a fit state to be removed to London. A train from Leatherhead conveyed the wounded passengers from the scene of the accident to London.

The line near the spot was being repaired, and the ballast was cleared away from the sleepers for the purpose of packing them. The train in question was followed by another train, express to Kingston, five minutes only after it. This, fortunately, was brought to a stand before arriving at the spot, or it must have dashed into the sound portion of the unfortunate train, and the consequences would have been still more awful. Fortunately it was clear at the time, and the moon was about rising, immediately after which a fog came on. It becomes a serious question whether it is prudent to start an express train to Southampton at 5 o'clock, another express to Portsmouth at 5 10, and another express to Kingston at 5 15, so having three fast trains within a quarter of an hour. An accident to the first must endanger the two following, or, as in this case, with only an interval of five minutes between the second and third, how frightful might a duplex accident be. The traffic on the up line was stopped, and an express train from Southampton had to go back on the up line from Malden to Kingston to allow the down traffic to pass from Wimbledon to Kingston on the wrong or up line. The fault does not seem to rest with the road, for the engine kept on the rails, ran on to Kingston, minus its tender, and brought back medical assistance.

The labourers on the line were soon in attendance, and set to work clearing the road; the trains, however, were from two to four hours late in getting to their destination. By morning the fragments had for the most part been gathered up and put with the broken carriages, the whole being hid from view by large tarpaulins thrown over them. There is great credit due to those in charge of the trains. The engine-driver ran on for medical assistance, the guard left his train and ran back with the red or danger light, and the driver

of the following train, seeing the signal, pulled up about 300 yards from the spot where the accident occurred.

The pointsman at the junction has two distant signals, about 400 and 800 yards towards London respectively, and it is a very strange and culpable thing that the most useful one, which can be seen nearly a mile from the junction by down trains, was out and utterly useless.

6th January 1862

BANSTEAD AND EPSOM DOWNS

This proposed line, according to the plans deposited, will commence at Sutton, in Surrey, by a junction with the Croydon and Epsom branch of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, by passing through Banstead, Cuddington, and Ewell, to Epsom Downs, at an estimated cost of 85,000*l.*, and with borrowing powers to the extent of 28,300*l.*

20th February 1862

THE GREAT VOLUNTEER REVIEW TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - As it now appears that there is a determination on the part of some of the commanders of metropolitan Volunteer corps to assemble on Easter Monday for the purpose of executing field manoeuvres on an extended scale, would it not be advisable again to consider the superior advantages which a rendezvous nearer to the metropolis would afford for such an object? Why, in the choice of a spot for such a display, is Epsom ignored? The space available, the ease of access, the local accommodation for the reception and entertainment of Volunteers and visitors, surely enter into most favourable comparison with Brighton; while it seems only right that a display by metropolitan corps should take place within such a distance of the metropolis as would afford those among whom these corps are raised and supported a reasonable chance of being present.

While giving every credit to the spirit and energy of Lord Ranelagh and those who think and act with him, I cannot help feeling that a meeting, sanctioned by Government, under the control and chief command of Government officers, and at such a place as Epsom Downs, would be more popular with the Volunteers themselves and produce a larger muster, would afford a fair opportunity for visitors from the metropolis to view the display, and would contribute something towards cementing a proper understanding between the Volunteers and the regular officers of higher rank, under whom they would have to act if ever called upon to take the field.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

London, Feb. 19

A VOLUNTEER ADJUTANT

February 28th 1860

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, Feb. 27
(*Sittings at Nisi Prius, at Guildhall, before the LORD
CHIEF JUSTICE and a Common Jury*)

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Mr. Digby Seymour and Mr. Beresford were for the plaintiff; Mr. Creasy and Mr. Needham for the defendants.

The plaintiff on the last Derby-day was entering the station at Epsom for the purpose of returning to London, when a door through which he was going was, without notice, pushed to, as was alleged by one of the company's servants, and the plaintiff's foot was crushed and seriously injured. The present action was brought to recover damages for the injuries so sustained, which were said to be, if not permanent, at all events likely to remain for some years

Mr. CREASY, on behalf of the company, denied that the accident had been occasioned by the negligence of the defendants, and detailed the precautions taken on the occasion for the safety of passengers to and from the races.

Evidence was adduced to show that the door was gently pushed to after notice to stand back had been given, and that the plaintiff had, by his own act, in placing his foot between the door and the post, contributed to the accident.

The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, - Damages, 85*l.* 16*s.*

The last case in the list in this court was an action for false imprisonment.

April 10th 1863

SPRING ASSIZES

HOME CIRCUIT

KINGSTON, April 9

(Before the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE and a Special Jury.)

THE QUEEN, ON THE PROSECUTION OF TORR, v. THE GUARDIANS OF THE
POOR OF THE EPSOM UNION

This was a case of some public interest, as touching upon the great "sewage" question, and the success or non-success of the various filtering or deodorizing processes adopted with the view of dealing with it, and also as relating to the powers and functions of local Boards or bodies under the Nuisances Removal Act. It was a *mandamus* to the Board of Guardians, as the local authority, under the Nuisance Removal Act, to compel them to put into serviceable repair a certain sewer at Ewell, under and along the highway between Cheam and Kingston, near the property of the prosecutor. They did not deny that the sewer in its present state was a nuisance, but they disputed their liability or duty to repair it, because, as they alleged, it was so badly constructed that it could not be put into serviceable repair, and was itself necessarily a nuisance. It was constructed over a natural and open watercourse, in 1859, by the then local Board or body, under the Nuisances Act of 1855. Since then another Nuisances Removal Act had passed, constituting the Board of Guardians the local authority. Having been originally a natural watercourse, the idea of turning it into a sewer was that the natural flow of water would keep it flushed and carry away the sewage. As, however, it ran into a mill-stream, there were complaints by the mill-owners as to its being a nuisance to them. And, after inquiries, the Board came to the conclusion that, in consequence of the improper manner in which the sewer was originally laid down, it would be impossible to render it efficient by any amount of repairs, and that if the inhabitants of Ewell were allowed to drain into any sewer running through the village, very extensive works would have to be carried out to get rid of the sewage matter; that no repairs would be of any use or service, and that the only means of abating the nuisance arising from the sewer would be to discontinue its

use, except for surface-water, the inhabitants resorting to the old cesspool system. This was the question raised on the affidavits upon the rule for a *mandamus*, and was substantially the question now raised upon the return to the *mandamus* itself, which had now come on for trial.

Mr. Lush, Q.C., and Mr. Winston were for the prosecutor; Mr. Bovill, Q.C., and Mr. Badeley were for the defendants.

The case was commenced yesterday and continued to-day.

Witnesses were called for the prosecutor to show that the sewer could be put into effective repair, and that the alleged nuisance could be obviated by a system of filtering tanks, which should separate the sewage matter and precipitate it.

On the other hand, witnesses were called for the defendants to show that, by reason of the sewer being laid at a low level, and having no “outfall,” it could not be “flushed” with water so as to carry off the solid matter; and that as to filtering and deodorizing processes, they were impracticable, and had never succeeded except on a small scale; added to which, it was contended that there were no means or funds at the disposal of the Board for the construction of such works as would be required to make the sewer effective, even if it could be done.

It was said that the local authorities under the Nuisances Removal Act had only power to remove nuisances, not to construct new works, a power which only belonged to the local Boards under the Public Health Act, or the Local Government Act. The evidence was strong that the sewer could not be managed so as not to be a nuisance.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE expressed a strong opinion that the sewer was a nuisance to the stream, and that the question resolved itself into one of law, - whether the duty of liability to repair the sewer involved a liability so to reconstruct the sewer as to obviate the nuisance. The learned counsel on both sides assented, and the verdict was entered for the defendants, subject to the question of law so reserved.

April 11th 1862

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN

A special meeting of this company was held yesterday at the Waterloo station to consider six Bills now before Parliament; Captain Mangles in the chair.

Mr. Clarke, the secretary, having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN explained that the first three Bills on the list were promoted by the company, and the other three were promoted by independent companies, in which there were permissive powers for working the traffic on the new lines when completed.

The Solicitor read the heads of a Bill authorizing the London and South-Western Railway Company to construct additional works, to widen the line near Vauxhall station, and also in or near Southampton; to purchase the Epsom branch of the Wimbledon and Dorking Railway, to raise 500,000*l.* on shares, and to borrow 160,000*l.*

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN a formal resolution approving the Bill was unanimously adopted.

The Solicitor read the heads of a Bill authorizing the construction of a railway from the North Devon Railway to Okehampton. The only clauses affecting the South-Western Company were the 43d and following clauses, giving permissive powers to the

new company and the South-Western Company to enter into working arrangements for ten years, subject to the approval of the shareholders and the Board of Trade.

A formal resolution approving the Bill was carried unanimously, as was also another approving a Bill for making a line from Bishop's Waltham to Botley and other places. The only clauses affecting the company were the 41st and following clauses, authorizing a junction with the South-Western Railway, and enabling the new company and the South-Western to make working arrangements.

The meeting was then adjourned to the 15th of May, at the same place, to consider the other Bills, which had not yet passed the Committee of the House of Commons.

May 1st 1862

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE

Resolutions were also passed approving a Bill for making a railway from the Sutton station of the Croydon and Epsom branch to Banstead and Epsom Downs; and also a...

May 10th 1862

House of Commons, Friday, May 9

Petitions praying for alterations of the Parochial Assessments in England Bill were presented from Newport Pagnell, by Mr. W. CAVENDISH; from the Epsom and Ewell Gas Company, by Mr. BRISCOE; from the Cardiff Waterworks Company, by Mr. H. VIVIAN; from the New River Company, by Mr. LOCKE; from the rural chapter of Horsham, by Mr. S. FITZGERALD; also from the clergy of the deanery of Powdre, in Cornwall, praying that provision be made in the Bill for deducting tenants' rates and taxes from the rateable value of tithe rentcharges, by Mr. MONTAGUE SMITH.

May 14th 1862

VOLUNTEER FIELD-DAY ON EPSOM-DOWNS – On Saturday next a brigade field-day of several Volunteer corps will take place on Epsom Downs, under the command of Colonel M'Murdo, C.B., Inspector-General of Volunteers. Four of the principal corps of the metropolis have already agreed to take part in it, and it is expected they will be commanded as follows, viz:- The 23d Middlesex (Inns of Court) Rifles, Lieutenant-Colonel Brewster; 22d Middlesex (Queen's Westminster), two battalions, Colonels Lord Grosvenor, and Lord Gerald Fitzgerald; 15th Middlesex (London Scottish), Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Elcho; and the 1st City of London Rifle Brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Warde.

May 19th 1862

VOLUNTEER FIELD-DAY AT EPSOM

On Saturday afternoon a brigade field-day took place on the Epsom Downs, under command of Colonel M'Murdo, Inspector-General of Volunteers, attended by Colonel Luard and Colonel Morris, members of his Staff. The force under arms, numbering in the aggregate little short of 2,000 men, was contributed by half-a-dozen of the principal Volunteer regiments of the metropolis, and the gathering was intended not so much for purposes of display as of work. In the regular service the occasion would have been known as a "private field-day;" but from their very constitution Volunteers may be

added to that class of humanity which cannot keep a secret, and accordingly there was a large though not inconveniently numerous attendance of sight-seers on the Downs. The afternoon was beautifully fine, but with a dull heat that seemed ominous of a coming storm, and the long ascent from the station to the stand-house was consequently rather a severe preparation for the movements to be undertaken. But the regiments all bore it very well; and when the line was formed, at half-past 6 o'clock, the men looked in remarkably good order. On the extreme right were the Inns of Court, whose punctuality – professional multiplied by military – brought them on the ground a good hour before anybody else. On the extreme left were the London Rifle Brigade; and intermediately, in the order of their arrival, were the Queen's Westminsters, the London Scottish, the 38th (Artists), and Lord Radstock's corps, the 9th Middlesex. The plan of battle was of the ordinary suppositions and flexible character, largely affected by the nature of the ground, and still more by the absence of either cavalry or artillery. For purposes of explanation, it is sufficient to state that the enemy was in force in the direction of Leatherhead, facing the grand stand, that he had got possession of a thicket of gorse and brushwood, and that his advanced posts held a farmhouse immediately on the right of Colonel M'Murdo's position. To shake off those proximate assailants, the Inns of Court, under Colonel Brewster, were at once thrown out as skirmishers, and continued to act in that capacity during nearly the whole of the operations. In modern warfare it has become habitual to employ *corps d'élite* first, instead of holding them in reserve. Louis Napoleon used up his Imperial Guards and won his Italian campaign at about the same moment. In the event, therefore, of actual invasion, the "Devil's Own" have before them a future more brilliant than pleasurable. While they were engaged in surrounding the farmhouse the other battalions moved up a valley towards Tattenham-corner, the London Brigade leading, in a dark solid column, like a patch of ink upon the grass. The Queen's Westminsters, nearly double the strength of any other regiment upon the ground, wheeled very steadily, and followed in the same direction, and the line was closed by the London Scottish, the attire of whose flank companies Mr. O'Lynn himself must have commended as "pleasant and cool," though penalties lurked in the thicket of gorse. At this point the ability with which Colonel M'Murdo handled his small army was seen to much advantage. Standing near was not such a thing as a rifleman upon the ground, the main body of the Volunteers was completely sheltered as well from sight as from the enemy's fire by the ridge behind which it was moving; the leading companies of the Inns of Courts lay down behind the small bank which they lined, waiting the order to commence firing, and the reserves and supports were also recumbent in sheltered positions. It was only by moving nearer to them that the scarlet collars and crowns of their caps could be seen, like heather-bloom above their gray uniforms. A second later, and they were keeping up that sharp skirmishing fire which resembles nothing so much as the conversation of a rookery, which is always on the point of dying away till "a last contradictory croak" sets the whole tribe off again in full chorus. It is always a trying thing to young troops to advance in line over the crest of a hill, especially when, as in this case, some of the officers in command did not seem to have made up their minds which was the directing flank; but this movement on the part of the main body was, nevertheless, imposing, and the steady drill of the London Brigade in particular was conspicuous. The skirmishers had by this time dislodged the enemy from the farmhouse, and were driving him over the hill. The other battalions having come within range, the

skirmishers lay down while a murderous file-fire was poured over their heads from behind, and then rushed forward again with a cheer to secure the ground which the enemy had abandoned. They kept up the pursuit with great animation through the furze bushes; the regiments which had preserved their compact formation moving through these by three different routes. Having reached the open ground at the other side, the skirmishers were in their turn driven in, and the line then did its part in repelling the enemy with vigorous file-firing and occasional volleys. The foe, baffled in a direct attack then tried to intercept the Volunteers from the Epsom-station – a movement which, of course, necessitated a corresponding change of position on their part. Darkness had now so far descended that the motions of isolated battalions could not be followed, but the effect of the firing was much enhanced. The line of skirmishers, no longer attacking, but engaged in covering the new formation, protected the force with a belt or fringe of fire, whose hungry shooting tongues of flame darted hither and thither, and seemed to lick the edge of the line as waves do the base of a rocky shore. The fusillade from squares was more concentrated, but it lost in point of distance and extent what it gained in intensity. The firing, however in a military point of view, was very creditable, especially from the small but well-disciplined battalion of Lord Radstock. Indeed it may be said of the entire force that the manner in which it acquitted itself was deserving of high commendation. On occasions such as these, where the object is not merely to march past in good order, but to perform important manoeuvres with facility and promptitude, an insight is gained into the relative merits and deficiencies of different corps which at other times is rarely obtained. Thus a close observer might have noticed on Saturday that the Westminster companies were by no means equal as to drill; that some required a good deal of prompting; and that they were fidgety about the muzzles of their rifles; that the London Scottish, though they marched well and shot well, had a tendency to overrun their coverers; and that the 38th, while pardonably conscious that they were artists, could not forget that they were critics as well. But minor points like these were more than counterbalanced by the general aptitude and hearty good will with which each order was obeyed. The movements closed shortly before 9 o'clock with a final charge, in which the impetuosity of the 1st City of London carried them so far forward that they were only stopped by a pretty steep hill.

Colonel M'Murdo then called the mounted officers to the front, and expressed to them his satisfaction at the manner in which the movements had been executed, regard being had to the difficult nature of the ground. He had not gone strictly by the book, but had conducted the evolutions in the manner that would be necessary in case of actual warfare. In doing this he had relied on the spirit and intelligence of the Volunteers, and he had not been disappointed. The line had been formed with as much steadiness and rapidity as could be expected from regular troops in face of an enemy; and he felt bound to notice particularly the manner in which the Inns of Court had charged up the hill in front of them, and the soldierly march of the London Brigade through the furze on their left. Colonel M'Murdo gave a brief explanation of the movements which just been gone through, and requested the commanders of the different brigades to express to the officers under their charge his great satisfaction at the manner in which they had been performed.

June 30th 1862

The second annual prize competition, in connexion with the Surrey Rifle Volunteer Association, was begun on Tuesday at the rifle ranges on Epsom Downs, and continued throughout Wednesday and Thursday. On the latter day the Lord-Lieutenant of the county (the Earl of Lovelace) distributed the prizes among the successful marksmen. The entries on this occasion have greatly exceeded those of the former year, as might have been expected from the increased number and additional value of the prizes. The butts were kept by detachments of the Fusileer and Coldstream Guards, who were billeted in the town. The first match was for...

August 8th 1862

HOME CIRCUIT
GUILDFORD, Aug 7

Crown court – (*Before Mr. Baron BRAMWELL*)

The learned Baron took his seat in this court to charge the grand jury and try prisoners. It is by much the larger and finer of the two halls, being newly erected (whereas the other is the old Institute-hall remodelled), and is similar in form and style, and nearly equal in size to the halls of the Middle Temple, and of Trinity College, Cambridge, and the objections mentioned yesterday as to the internal arrangements do not apply so strongly to this court as to the other, the table being shorter and broader, and there being some transverse seats for the bar and attorneys facing the bench. As regards the substantial requisites of space and airiness, the hall is really a noble edifice.

The learned BARON, in charging the grand jury, congratulated them on the new edifice in which they would have to discharge their duties. He did not know a better court anywhere, and it did credit to the public spirit of the promoters of it; and as it appeared to have been the result of private enterprise, with the view of retaining for Guildford the privilege of an assize town, he hoped it would prove successful. The learned JUDGE having charged the grand jury, proceeded to try prisoners, of whom there were about 20 for trial...

James Holt, a person employed in the post-office at Epsom, pleaded "Guilty" to the charge of stealing a post letter containing two half-sovereigns and two postage stamps.

Mr. Hurrell and Mr. C. Pollock were counsel for the Post-office.

The prisoner was undefended.

The learned JUDGE said there was one usual sentence in such cases, and he saw no reason for varying it – namely, four years' penal servitude.

November 18th 1862

The Distress in Lancashire

SURREY

The town of Epsom has already subscribed a handsome sum towards the distressed operatives in the North, and 100*l.* has just been forwarded to the Lord Mayor, having been raised by a house-to-house visitation by the vicar, the Rev. Bradney Bockett, assisted by the church-wardens, Messrs. Henry Dorling and John Steele...

March 9th 1863

POLICE

MARLBOROUGH-STREET – William Spires, William Wright, and Joseph Griffiths, notorious “Magsmen,” were charged with gambling in Hyde Park, the game they were practising being known as the “three-card trick.”

Devitt and Watts, two plain clothes officers of the N division, proved seeing the prisoners on the grass in Hyde Park with three cards, and inviting persons to bet on them. They took the prisoners into custody, and on searching them found upon them only a small quantity of genuine money but a number of “Hanoverian” sovereigns.

In answer to the magistrate, one of the constables said the prisoners had several companions with them

Boden, the messenger of the court, and Sergeant Cole said they knew the whole of the prisoners as “magsmen” and frequenters of racecourses. Boden also said that Spires had been convicted for a similar offence either on Epsom or Ascot racecourse.

The prisoners were committed for three months’ hard labour each.

April 16th 1863

EXPLOSION AT EWELL POWDER MILLS, SURREY. – About 6 o’clock yesterday morning a fearful explosion of gunpowder, by which three lives were lost, took place at the mills belonging to Messrs. Sharp and Adams, of Birchin-lane, London. The manufacture is carried on in five detached buildings, distant from 150 to 400 yards from each other. These are known as – 1, the mixing-house; 2, the mills, which are worked by steam; 3, the press-room; 4, the corning-house and glazing room; and 5, the dust-houses. The corning-house and glazing room formed one building of only one story; it was 40ft. square, and was divided into two apartments by a water wheel, which drove the machinery of the mill, and by a thin partition. It was in this building that the explosion took place. The noise was fearful, and alarmed the whole neighbourhood. The shock was like that produced by cannon and file firing. Within a quarter of a mile of the spot windows were broken in every house. In the High-street of Sutton, three miles off, the shock was severely felt, and the noise caused alarm at a distance of from six to seven miles. One of the workmen engaged at the time in the press-house, about 400 yards off, on hearing the explosion, said to his companion. “There’s a blow,” and made his way into the open air. On looking up he saw a cloud of smoke and black spots, which he knew to be charred timbers tossed high into the air by the explosion. The workmen, on repairing to the place after the accident, found the whole space within 100 yards of the mill covered with charred timbers from a few inches to many feet in length. The mill itself was levelled with the ground, a beam not less than 12 feet long and 15 inches square standing almost upright in the ground at a distance of 30 yards from the place where it had been. It had evidently been blown over the tops of the young elms and ash trees intervening without touching them. Two large ash and elm trees were torn up by the roots, and the old press which stood outside the building was also pulled from its socket. Three men are usually employed in the rooms, and at 6 o’clock they had just gone to work. They were all three in the building, and were blown up with it. Their bodies (or portions of them) were picked up in the adjoining field, belonging to Mr. Gardener, Ruxley Farm. One body, that of Thomas Woolman, was found at a distance of 90 yards; the other two, those of James Baker and Henry Hookham, in different directions 60 or 70 yards from the Mill. The body of the former was the least mutilated of the three, one arm only being blown off. Of the others the heads and limbs were separated from the

bodies, and scattered about the field. One of the hands has not been found. Mr. Sharp's private residence, at some distance from the scene of the accident, is much damaged. Scarcely a pane of glass remains whole, and the woodwork is much torn. The walls are shaken to the foundation. Two of the deceased men left families – James Baker, a wife and six children, the eldest only 11 years of age, and Henry Hookham, two daughters, one a widow with children dependent upon him. But either he or the other sufferer had just had secured to him through the kind exertions of Mr. Sharp a pension from Sir Henry Bridges, the former owner of the mills. No conjecture has been offered as to the cause of the accident, nor were the workmen able to state what quantity of powder was in the mill at the time of the explosion. A similar severe disaster occurred on the same spot 23 years ago.

April 29 1963

MORTALITY IN ENGLAND – In the 10 years 1851-60 the annual mortality in the districts comprising the chief towns was 24.57 per 1,000 living; in the districts comprising small towns and country parishes, 19.77; in all England, 22.24. The deaths of males averaged 23.18 per 1,000 living; of females only 21.34. Out of equal numbers living there were 109 deaths of males to 100 deaths of females. Of the persons who lived to be 100 years old there were two women to one man. Two of the 623 districts into which England is divided – namely, Farnborough in Surrey, and Bellingham in Northumberland, with a population respectively of 14,318 and 7,080, took the lead in healthiness, and had in the 10 years an average annual mortality of only 14 in 1,000; and two other districts in Northumberland, Glendale, with a population of 13,211, and Rothbury, with 7,147, had an average annual mortality of only 15 in 1,000. In no other entire district was the annual mortality so low as 15; but it was only 16 in 10 districts – namely, Epsom, Bromley, Steyning, Easthampstead (Berks), Dulverton (Somersetshire), Billesdon (Leicestershire), Hemsworth (Yorkshire), Belford (Northumberland), Bootle (Cumberland), and Knighton (Radnorshire). In the entire district of St. George's Hanover-square, the average annual mortality was only 18 per 1,000, and the same in Lewisham, and in the Hampstead district only 17; taking the whole country through, not above one district in five had so low a mortality as 18. During the 10 years 1851-61, from Census to Census, London increased its numbers 121 a day, 72 by excess of births over deaths, and 49 by immigration; but this continual accumulation of human beings within its limits did not bring an increased mortality. In the 10 years 1840-49, the average annual rate of mortality in London was 25.1 per 1,000; in the subsequent decennium, 1850-59, it fell to 23.6 per 1,000. This may seem a small thing in a single thousand, but London has nearly three thousand thousands...

June 15th 1863

HODGMAN v. WEST MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY

Mr. Serjeant Shee, Mr. Serjeant Petersdorff, and Mr. Wood were for the plaintiff; Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Henry James were for the company.

This was an action to recover 1,200*l.*, the value of a racehorse, "Shillelagh," with his engagements, in July, 1862, when the animal received an injury at the Worcester station, the consequence of which was that it had to be killed. Mr. Hodgman, the plaintiff, who has a stud at Epsom, bought the horse in 1861, when three years old, for

50*l.* As a 2 yr-old he thought it was the fastest horse that ever ran. It fell off at three years old, perhaps from having been a little overdone. After he was the owner the horse won by different races about 850*l.*, and when the accident happened he would have refused 2,000 guineas for it. He had to pay about 11*l.* in expenses and 22*l.* for forfeits, the horse being engaged for races at Liverpool, Stamford, and Lewes. The circumstances of the accident were these:- The horse had won a race at Worcester, and was to be brought to London. The boxes were on a siding, leading to the station yard, and the only passage to the horse-boxes was between girders lying in two rows on the ground. A racehorse, "Viscount Brignall," was nearly in the stall, and the division was being closed, when he "flung out," and startled "Shillelagh," who backed against the sharp edge of a projecting girder, and received a wound in the fetlock of the hind leg, for the cure of which all veterinary art failed. The girders were 35 feet long, 2 feet high, and 14 inches wide, and the one inflicting the wound was left projecting far beyond the line of the row of girders.

Mr. HAWKINS submitted that there was no evidence of negligence and cited "Cornan v. Eastern Counties Railway Company."

The CHIEF JUSTICE said he would reserve leave for Mr. Hawkins to move to enter a nonsuit, but he would ask the jury two questions; first, was the company guilty of negligence in not taking care that access to the horse-boxes should not be encumbered and rendered dangerous by such things as these girders; and, secondly, was the defendant's servant guilty of contributing negligence in taking his master's horse through so narrow a passage as was left tween the girders.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff – Damages, 1,000*l.*

June 17th 1863

STACEY v. BENNETT

Mr. H.T. Cole was for the plaintiff; Mr. Huddleston, Q.C., and Mr. Henry James were for the defendant.

This was an action to recover damages for breach of promise of marriage. The plaintiff is the daughter of a sporting innkeeper at Ewell, and the defendant is a jockey and trainer. The defendant pleaded infancy, and the plaintiff is herself under age. The details of the loves, courtship, and quarrels of a boy and girl in the position of the parties to this action can scarcely be interesting to our readers; we may, therefore, state simply that the verdict was for the plaintiff – damages, 50*l.*

March 30th 1864

HOME CIRCUIT

KINGSTON, March 20

CROWN COURT – (*Before the* LORD CHIEF BARON)

A woman named Mary Smith was indicted for the manslaughter of one Thomas Shoemsmith, at Epsom.

Mr. Massey Dawson was for the prosecution; Mr. Lilly was for the defence.

The case, as the learned counsel engaged observed, was one of a very melancholy character. The poor woman had lived for some years with the deceased, and they had children, of whom one, an intelligent girl, was witness in the case, having beheld the last fatal scene of violence. He seems to have behaved with great brutality to her, and was

seen kicking her as she lay on the ground. The poor girl cried out to him, "Pray don't kill my mother!" upon which he rushed at her and beat her, declaring that he would kill her. At last the poor woman, either seized with sudden frenzy of anger or an impulse of self-defence, took up a broom and struck him violently a blow on the head, which fractured his skull, and caused his death.

Mr. MASSEY DAWSON, counsel for the prosecution, humanely put in evidence a statement of the woman when apprehended, - "I was forced to fight to save my own life or that of my child."

Mr. LILLY made an earnest address to the jury on her behalf, urging this ground of defence, and impressing upon them that if she struck the fatal blow in self-defence or defence of her child she could not be convicted of manslaughter.

The LORD CHIEF BARON said the learned counsel for the defence had very truly stated the law, and the learned counsel for the prosecution had very humanely and properly put in the piece of evidence which helped materially the defence. The question, in short, was whether the blow was struck in revenge or in self-defence. If in revenge, then, even though struck while smarting under blows and violence, still it was manslaughter. If, however, the blow was really struck in self-defence, then the prisoner was not guilty of the felony, and this defence was strongly supported by the fact that the broom was certainly not an instrument likely to cause death. It was true the violence might at the moment have been to the child, and there was no legal marriage between the parties. But there were ties which nature must acknowledge, though the law did not, and if the woman struck the blow to defend her child from cruel violence, then she was not guilty of manslaughter.

The jury considered some minutes, and then found the prisoner *Guilty* of manslaughter, at the same time recommending her to mercy on account of the great provocation she had received.

The LORD CHIEF BARON, who apparently would have been as well if not better satisfied with a verdict of not guilty, said to the jury, - You mean that she was not actuated by malice or revenge?

The jury said that was their opinion.

It appeared that the prisoner had been already in custody two months.

The LORD CHIEF BARON then, after a brief consideration, passed sentence as follows. He said, - The jury have found you guilty of manslaughter, but have recommended you to mercy on account of the provocation you had received, and the committing magistrate joins in their recommendation, to which, I may add, the evidence gives additional weight. You have already been in prison two months, and the sentence of the Court is that you be further imprisoned for one month.

A burst of applause hailed this mild sentence, and sufficiently showed that the popular sense of justice would have been satisfied with an acquittal.

April 29th 1864

ACCIDENT ON A RAILWAY – A fatal accident occurred on Tuesday afternoon on the railway in course of formation between Sutton and the Epsom Downs. From Sutton the line runs up a steep inclined plane to Banstead, and the accident was caused by the running back of a train of ballast trucks, which eventually came into collision with an engine employed in removing the metals for the new line. There were no persons on the

ballast train, but on the engine were the driver, the stoker, and a porter from Epsom. The embankment at the curve prevented them from either seeing or hearing the approach of the trucks until close upon them. The porter at once jumped off on the right hand side. The engine-driver remained for a minute or two, reversed the motion of the engine, and then jumped off on the other side uninjured. The collision which followed threw the foremost truck on the tender of the engine. The remaining trucks were heaped upon one another and many of them were broken to fragments. The porter who first jumped off was severely injured in the legs and chest, and serious doubts are entertained of his recovery. The stoker was struck by a portion of a broken truck, and the lower part of his body was so fearfully mangled that he expired within a few minutes when removed to the waiting-room of the station.

June 23rd 1864

RAILWAY DANGERS
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, – I am a daily customer of the South-Western Railway Company, and travel to and from Epsom every day.

A proof of the admirable arrangements of the traffic manager, and his care for the lives of his passengers, may be gathered from the following facts, which I am prepared to prove by witnesses:-

The train I travelled by this morning left Epsom at 9.30, and arrived at the junction with the main line at 9.49. We were there stopped by signal, the Surbiton train being, as it occasionally is, behind its time. So nearly did the two trains approach the same spot, on the same line, at the same moment of time, that 40 seconds after we had pulled up the Surbiton train thundered past. Fifteen seconds after the last carriage had passed, we started in full pursuit.

But the worst feature of the case remains; for, after all, a stern chase is a long chase. In joining the main line, our Epsom up line, by an effort of engineering skill beyond all praise, is made to cross the main down line; and we had barely crossed this dangerous point, and reached the comparative safety of the main up line, when a train at full speed whirled past on the down line. You will thus see that by the present arrangement three trains are dexterously concentrated on to one spot on the line within two minutes of each other, - a spot which has already been the scene of a frightful accident. My life and the lives of hundreds depend every day upon the unceasing vigilance and the clear head of an underpaid and overworked signalman.

There is not an Epsom or Ewell passenger that will not bear witness to the facts I have stated, and there is no regular passenger that has not joined in the universal prophecy that “we shall be smashed some day at that junction.”

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

London, June 22

T.

September 1st 1864

BANSTEAD AND EPSOM DOWNS

The half-yearly meeting was held at the London-bridge Terminus on Tuesday: Mr. J.H. Nix in the chair. The report stated that the line was nearly approaching completion, but there had been such delays on the part of the contractor that they were

obliged to take the works out of his hands. They hoped the line would be open for public traffic without delay. The receipts were 47,900*l.*, and the expenditure 47,800*l.* The report was adopted, and Mr. E. Bellamy was elected auditor.

October 31st 1864

EWELL FAIR, SURREY, Oct. 29 – On Saturday this annual fair, which is an important one of the county, took place. the sheep pens were well supplied, chiefly with Sussex downs, which met a brisk demand. Well grown wethers in full condition sold at 48*s.* to 52*s.* a head; four-tooth and store ditto, 40*s.* to 44*s.*; and two-tooth [eggs], 34*s.* to 37*s.* a head. Lambs, Southdown wethers for store, 26*s.* to 28*s.*, and ewe lambs for stock, 24*s.* to 26*s.* a head; Cotswold lambs, 28*s.* to 32*s.* a head. Ewes, young well-bred Southdowns, 38*s.* to 42*s.* a head; full mouthed and aged ewes, 29*s.* to 36*s.* per ditto. Rams, Sussex-bred and Long-wooled tups, 3 to 7 guineas. Nearly all the sheep were sold. Cattle, well bred dairying cows in full milk, 15*l.* to 19*l.*, and cows to calve down, 8*l.* to 14*l.* Store stock, short horn steers, 12*l.* to 14*l.*, and ditto stock heifers, 7*l.* to 10*l.*; Welsh beast, 7*l.* to 9*l.* Fat cows and heifers, 12*l.* to 16*l.* Horses, sound cobs and ponies, 7 to 14 guineas, and cart-horses, 6 to 15 guineas. The demand was dull, and only a few horses were sold.

November 29th 1864

NICHOLLS v. THE LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN
RAILWAY COMPANY

Mr. James, Q.C., and Mr. Prentice were counsel for the plaintiff; Mr. Serjeant Ballantine and Mr. C.W. Wood for the company.

This was also an action for compensation for injuries inflicted upon the plaintiff by reason of the negligence of the defendants.

The plaintiff, it appears, is a young man 30 years of age, and a clerk in the War-office. He had gone to Epsom on the 25th of May last, the Derby Day, taking a single ticket. He arrived at the Epsom station on the way home, having just procured a ticket, and was standing on the platform, waiting for a train, when a great rush was made by many persons behind him, and he was carried with great force against one of the carriages, and ultimately fell between the edge of the platform and the carriage, sustaining thereby a compound fracture of the left arm, which caused him to...

For the plaintiff several witnesses were called, and swore that a great rush took place owing, as they believed, to the fact that a crowd of persons had been admitted through the booking-office or from the outside barrier at the moment when the train was drawing up at the platform. Mr. Chapman, assistant-surgeon, 37th Regiment, was on the platform, near the edge of it, and was carried forward by the rush of persons and thrown flat on his back across the coupling chains of two of the carriages, and was assisted from his extremely perilous position by some of the crowd.

Captain Davis, of the 37th, said that according to his belief there were as many persons standing on the platform before the rush came as would have filled an ordinary train – some 300 or 400.

The account given by the plaintiff was that he was standing near the door of the station and saw the train coming slowly up; at that time there were persons enough on the platform to have filled it; he walked towards the carriages, when a rush was made,

and he was knocked down and fell on the curb of the station and foot-board of the carriage, a porter in the employ of the company being knocked down at the same moment, and before he (the plaintiff) could extricate himself his arm was most severely hurt by one of the carriages.

He denied, upon cross-examination by the learned SERJEANT, that he had hold of the handle of the carriage while the train was in motion, or that he ever had admitted to anybody that he was to blame for the accident happening.

A Mr. Metcalfe, who was called on the part of the plaintiff, swore that he had a return-ticket, and was standing on the platform, there being no rush or crowd at the time; but a batch of persons were subsequently admitted upon the platform, and he was carried with some violence by them against one of the carriages.

At the close of the plaintiff's case, Mr. Serjeant BALLANTINE objected there was no evidence of negligence by the defendants to go to the jury.

Baron MARTIN assented, but said the case had better go on, and if necessary he would give the defendants leave to move.

The various witnesses called on the part of the defendants said that the accident happened by reason of the plaintiff taking hold of the handle of a carriage while the train was in motion, and falling down. A metropolitan policeman who was on duty at the station in plain clothes swore that as the plaintiff was hanging on to the handle by which persons assist themselves into the carriage two or three persons passed over him, and that, in his opinion, the accident was brought about by the anxiety of the plaintiff to get into the carriage. A Mr. Bannister stated that he saw the plaintiff slip while holding the handle of the door, and caught hold of him to prevent his falling under the train, and continued to hold him until his failing strength compelled him to relinquish his hold. One witness said there were not more than 30 persons waiting for the train, and another about 80 or 90. Benjamin Jermin (the porter who fell at the same time the plaintiff did) said that he was following the train up to keep the people back, when some persons made a rush and knocked him as well as the plaintiff down, who was trying to get into the train, and they both fell between the carriages.

A policeman of the defendants, who took the plaintiff to London, swore that the plaintiff stated on the journey that it was his own fault, and that he should have got on all right had it not been for a big fellow who pushed him away.

After Mr. JAMES and Mr. Serjeant BALLANTINE had addressed the jury on behalf of their respective clients,

Baron MARTIN summed up. He said that before the jury could find for the plaintiff they must be satisfied that the injury of which the plaintiff complained was brought about through the defendants' negligence; if not, if the plaintiff had by any conduct of his own contributed or conduced to the accident, then the defendants were entitled to a verdict; or if it was in their opinion one of those unaccountable accidents where blame could be cast upon no person, then the defendants were equally entitled to a verdict in their favour. The first question the jury ought to ask themselves was, whether, taking the plaintiff's own version of the accident, as well as that given by his witnesses, there was any evidence against the defendants; of course, if they believed the account which had been given by the defendants' witnesses, then there was an end of the plaintiff's case. Negligence was omitting to do something which the defendants ought to have done, and they (the jury) should ask themselves what the company could have done

to have prevented the accident. His Lordship read through the evidence for the plaintiff, and then said to the jury, "Assuming the whole of it to be true, could they put a finger upon anything which indicated negligence in the defendants? They must take into consideration the conduct of persons on occasions like that when the accident happened. If persons were unduly pressing upon each other, it could hardly be said, if an accident resulted from it, the defendants were liable, unless the jury could see some way by which the defendants could have controlled those persons. If the jury thought the plaintiff had made out his case then he was undoubtedly entitled to damages, and they should use fairness and moderation in awarding them."

The jury, after a few minutes deliberation, found for the defendants, the foreman adding, that the jury hoped the defendants on the next occasion would take the precaution to erect strong barriers on the platform.

March 10th 1865

ENCLOSURES – The report of the Enclosure Department of the Consolidated Copyhold Enclosure, and Tithe Commission states that since the passing of the Acts the number of applications to them for exchanges, enclosures, &c., has been 4,658. The enclosure of 454,437 acres has been confirmed, and that of 250,313 acres is in progress. The following proposed enclosures are reported by the Commissioners to be expedient, and in a state to be included in the annual general Bill of this Session:- Maerbach-hill, Herefordshire, about 19 acres; Epsom-common, Stamford-green, enclosure which will lead to the reclamation and improvement of a large tract of good land now lying in a comparatively profitless condition; Epsom-common fields, about 535 acres of common field lands subject to limited rights; Broadheath-common, Worcestershire, about...and five acres for the labouring poor. Of these enclosures generally the report states that none of the lands are within the distances named in the 8th and 9th Victoria, except Epsom-common, a part of which is within 15 miles of London; and in this enclosure of 444 acres 9 acres are allotted for exercise and recreation, and 10 acres for the labouring poor. The average expense of the enclosure proceedings, as far as the Enclosure-office is concerned, up to and including the assents to the provisional orders, leaving the case ready for Parliament to deal with, is 15*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*.

March 17th, 1865

House of Commons, Thursday, March 16

PETITIONS

Petitions against the Bank Notes Issue Bill were presented, by Mr. CUBITT, from the inhabitants of Epsom and of Dorking; by Mr. W. ANGERSTEIN, from the merchants, traders, &c., of Greenwich...

March 23rd 1865

We pass on to the Enclosure Report, which, unless we are very imperfectly informed, is but a most fragmentary account of the proceedings of these Commissioners in their capacity as an Enclosure Board...The fifty-one enclosures now proposed to be sanctioned will, however, attract more public attention than any general statement of cases that have already passed through Parliament. The Report contains a very short account of each, and why it is recommended for Parliamentary sanction. These new

enclosures seem to be distributed all over the country, and to be of every character of climate and soil. There are high mountain tracts in Westmoreland and Cumberland, and Hereford and Carmarthen, there are fens in Lincolnshire, there are commons in Worcestershire, there is a furze brake in Buckinghamshire, and there are two open spaces in Surrey. These last will specially attract the attention of the House of Commons. They occur in the Report as follows:- “Epsom-common, Stamford-green, Woodcote-green, and Clay-hill, in the parish of Epsom, containing about 444 acres. – The enclosure will lead to the reclamation and improvement of a large tract of good land now lying in a comparatively profitless condition. Epsom common fields, in the parish of Epsom, containing about 535 acres. – These are common field lands, subject to limited rights.” Epsom common fields are, we apprehend, merely land already in tillage, but not divided by fences between the owners; but Epsom-common, although we will hope it has no connexion with Epsom Downs, will exercise Mr. DOULTON’S watchfulness. No explanation is given in the Report, except that recreation grounds have been reserved, and that some portion is within 15 miles of London. The Commissioners do not appear to consider this question of “open spaces” one for them to report upon. And no doubt they are right. Parliament reserved this entirely and most properly to itself. It is clearly a subject which never ought to be delegated to any Board, and a matter of broad public policy upon which no Board should be allowed to put forward a recommendation. We abstain, therefore, as these Commissioners do, from discussing this topic when dealing with matters of mere administrative detail.

We have no doubt that in these Reports the Commissioners have given all the information which their Acts require or perhaps authorize them to give; but we cannot help thinking that out of these three elaborate printed statements it ought to be possible to extract a great deal more useful knowledge of the subjects of which they treat. If these three Reports had all been thrown into one, and all the drainage statistics, and land improvement statistics, and enclosure statistics, and enfranchisement statistics, and University estates statistics had been brought together and made to bear upon each other, with some attempt at generalization, we might have found the reading of these tables more profitable. We are not making these observations especially for these Reports, but intend them for all those records of public work which are now in preparation. The experience of our Public Offices ought to be utilized to the benefit of the public.

March 31st 1865

House of Commons, Thursday, March 30.

ENCLOSURE BILL

On the motion of the second reading of this Bill,

Mr. LOCKE asked the hon. gentleman the Under-Secretary of the Home Department to omit from the schedule “Epsom-common” and “Epsom-common fields,” which were only about 17 or 18 miles from London, and therefore within the area to which the inquiry of the committee now sitting extended.

Mr. T.G. BARING said that these two cases had been specially reported upon, and the report was in the hands of members. Epsom-common fields were cultivated land, belonging to 28 persons, over which the public had no rights, and he therefore could not consent to omit them from the Bill. The other case referred to was one of the

enclosure of a real common, and as some part of it was within 15 miles of London he would consent to postpone its consideration

Mr. COX said that, unless the public had some right over those fields he could not understand why their owners should have thought it necessary to apply to the Enclosure Commissioners at all. He believed that the public had some rights over them, and therefore he thought that neither of these enclosures ought to be sanctioned until the committee now sitting had made its report. In order that the hon. gentleman might have an opportunity of again addressing the House, he moved that the Bill should be read a second time that day week.

Mr. T.G. BARING said that this was a question which affected private property, and he could not consent to omit these fields from the Bill.

Mr. KINNAIRD was sorry that the hon. gentleman would not accede to the reasonable proposal which had been made to him. There wanted some reform in this matter of enclosures. (Hear, hear.) Enclosure Bills were intended to be a protection for the public, but instead of that they had been made the means by which open spaces had been withdrawn from the enjoyment of the public.

Mr. BRADY hoped that the hon. gentleman would accept the suggestion of the hon. member for Finsbury.

Mr. BONHAM-CARTER said that as to the common fields there were no public rights whatever, and this Bill could not harm the public.

Sir J. SHELLEY pointed out that there was a great distinction between commons and common fields.

The amendment was withdrawn, and the Bill passed through committee.

April 1st 1865

House of Commons, Friday, March 31

ENCLOSURE BILL

The House went into committee on this Bill.

Mr. PEACOCK complained that the lands proposed to be enclosed were not clearly stated in the schedule. No one reading this Bill could know what enclosures were intended by the description of "Epsom-common" and "Epsom-common fields." Such information might easily be given, and he should like to obtain an assurance that it would be afforded in future schedules. He suggested that the distance of these enclosures from the metropolis, or from any large town, should be stated.

Mr. DODSON said that a special report by the Commissioners used to be necessary with respect to enclosures within 15 miles of the metropolis; but by a more recent Act no enclosure could take place within that distance without the assent of Parliament. A special report was also made in such cases.

Mr. BRISCOE said that the enclosure referred to by the hon. and learned member had been the subject of full and careful inquiry by the Enclosure Commissioners, and no injury would be sustained by the public in the enclosure.

Mr. PEACOCKE would feel himself compelled to divide the House upon the schedule, unless the right hon. gentleman gave him some assurance that the engagement which had been made with him should be kept. He wished to know if the necessary information should be given to the House for the future.

Sir G. GREY said that a note should be added to the schedule in the case of property within a reasonable distance of London. In this instance the understanding made with the hon. gentleman had been carried out by the omission from the schedule of the enclosure of a part of Epsom-common.

The Bill then passed through Committee.

April 26th 1865

THE WORKS OF THE LATE JOHN LEECH. – The whole of the original sketches made by Mr. John Leech, comprising the original designs for the political cartoons and pictures of life and character which have appeared in *Punch* during the last 20 years; also the designs from *A'Beckett's Comic Histories of England and Rome*, *Ingoldsby Legends*, *Jorrocks's Hunt*, *Facey Romford's Hounds*, and other sporting works; some drawings in water-colours and pictures in oil, are now being disposed of at the Rooms of Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods, in King-street, St. James's, by direction of the executrix, and for the benefit of the family of the lamented artist. The sale commenced yesterday before a very crowded assemblage. Of the sketches of life and character there were 84 lots, arranged in groups of four or more subjects, mounted in a single frame, the more important being:- Lot 9, "A Sketch at a Steeplechase;" the brook jump, and four others – 10 guineas (Lewis). 10. "Thieves! Thieves!," "The Rising Generation," &c. – 10*l.* (Worrol). 12. "Recollection of a Jolly Old Paterfamilias;" "False Alarm, surely," and two others – 22 guineas (Flatou). 14. Private Theatricals – "Dismay of Mr. James Jessamy on being told that he will spoil the whole thing if he doesn't shave off his whiskers," and two others – 11 guineas (Flatou). 21. "Dress Circle at Punch and Judy;" "Some like one thing, and some like another;" and two others – 15 guineas (Dasent). 23. "Taking it Coolly," "The last Day at the Seaside," "Paterfamilias has his holyday," and one other – 10 guineas (Griffin). 24. "Our Friend Arry Belville is so knocked all of a heap by the beauty of the foreign fish girls, that he offers his 'aud' and 'art' to the lovely Pauline;" "Oh dear! That regular family next door are having their chimney swept again," and two others – 15½ guineas (Ewell). 25. "Some Foreigners that Mr. Bull can very well..."

May 15th 1865

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE – The thirteenth annual festival in connexion with this college was held on Saturday last at the Freemason's Tavern; the Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G., in the chair. Among those present were Sir Charles Locock, Mr. Scourfield, M.P., Admiral Burney, Dr. Charles Hogg, Dr. Babington, Mr. J.F. Clarke, Mr. Peter Mayne, Mr. Chapman, Dr. O'Connor, and many of the leading members of the medical profession. The Royal Medical Benevolent College was first projected in 1851, and is an institution founded by the medical profession as an asylum for those of their brethren who, from ill-health, want of professional success, or other adverse influences, have sunk into poverty, and for the widows of medical men in reduced circumstances. With it is combined a school devoted in part to the gratuitous education of orphans of medical men. The intentions of its founders were to maintain an asylum, in which 100 pensioners, not under 50 years of age, being medical men, or their widows, should be provided with three furnished rooms each, and such additional assistance and accommodation as the funds might permit; to educate 200 sons of medical

men, 40 of whom (the foundation scholars) were to be educated, boarded, clothed, and maintained entirely at the expense of the institution, and the remainder to be charged at the lowest rate found to be practicable; and to provide annuities or occasional pecuniary assistance to duly-qualified medical men in distressed circumstances, or to their families, when they can be granted without detriment to the asylum or school. There are at the present time resident in the college, at Epsom, 24 pensioners, aged medical men or their widows, each of whom is provided with three comfortably furnished rooms, an annual allowance of 3½ tons of coals, and a pension of 21*l.* a year. There are also resident in the college 200 boys, the sons of medical men. The foundation scholars, numbering 40, are educated and maintained gratuitously, while the remainder are charged 40*l.* a year each for an education of the highest class, board, washing, use of books, &c. There are also some day scholars, not necessarily the sons of medical men. The accounts for the past year exhibit a balance of only 310*l.*, the total receipts having been 11,892*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* After the usual loyal toasts had been honoured, Dr. Babington proposed “The Army, Navy, and Volunteers.” Admiral Burney responded for the Navy, and Mr. J.L. Propert for the Army and Volunteers. In the course of his remarks Mr. Propert alluded to the eminent services which Dr. Wakley had rendered in connexion with the Volunteer medical department. The toast of “the Church,” proposed by Mr. Scourfield, M.P., was acknowledged by the Rev. G. Pocock. In proposing the toast of the evening the noble chairman dwelt upon the merits which the institution possessed, and the claims which it had upon all who desired to see suffering and affliction alleviated. The institution had been founded by those whose work was exceedingly laborious, and its success might be attributed to the earnestness and zeal which the friends of this excellent charity had displayed. There was, probably, no profession in which accident and chance exercised so large an influence as that of medicine, for while some of its members soon attained distinction and wealth, others, through no fault of their own, would remain in obscurity, still working for the good of their fellow-creatures. No profession, therefore, had more claims for sympathy upon every class of the community. The noble lord concluded by appealing to the company for that support which the institution so eminently deserves. In acknowledging the toast of “the Chairman,” proposed by Sir Charles Locock, Earl Granville expressed the satisfaction which he experienced at occupying the position of president of an institution which was calculated to confer so many benefits upon the distressed and suffering. Several other toasts followed. The subscriptions amounted in the course of the evening to nearly 1,000*l.*

May 19th 1865

RAILWAY ON EPSOM DOWNS – Epsom races will this year be signalized by the opening of a new railway – the Banstead and Epsom Downs line, terminating within a short distance of Tattenham-corner, and not more than half a mile from the Grand Stand. This railway, which does not exceed 4½ miles in length, was projected by an independent company, but it has now passed into the hands of the London, Brighton, and South Coast directors, whose main Epsom line it leaves at the Sutton station, and, gradually ascending to the village of Banstead, terminates, as already mentioned, between Tattenham-corner and the Grand Stand, each of which are within a few minutes stroll over the greensward. Captain Yolland, of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade, has certified the line to be in perfect working order, and it is fully anticipated that the great bulk of the railway

passengers to Epsom will this year adopt the new route, thus avoiding the extortion of fly-drivers and the nuisance of traversing the dusty road between the village of Epsom and the racecourse. The new line is in direct communication with the Victoria and London-bridge railway stations.

May 30th 1865

THE PLAGUE OF DOGS
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - Public attention has been called of late to the great and dangerous nuisance of the dogs in Ireland. May I beg of you, through your powerful columns, to call the attention of Sir Richard Mayne and the police to the equally alarming nuisance of the dogs in England, both in town and country. The French set us a good example in this matter; their police have strict orders to destroy any dog found wandering about during the hot weather without a muzzle. If this simple precaution were resorted to in this country, that most dreadful of all maladies, hydrophobia, would soon be unknown. In the country the evil is still worse; in this vicinity, especially at the time of the races, the ownerless curs are innumerable, and to prove the reality of the nuisance I can remark that a very valuable mare, the property of Lord St. Vincent, narrowly escaped serious injury from a savage dog which attacked her while at exercise this morning. I strongly suspect that some of these dogs are brought here by evil-disposed persons purposely to alarm or injure some of the valuable horses that we have here at present.

I remain, yours obediently,

T. Y. C. BAINBRIDGE

Down-hall, Epsom, May 29

June 3rd 1865

THE TIMES NEWSPAPER AS A SURGICAL
INSTRUMENT
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - I was at the Derby on Wednesday in company with my friend, Mr. H.B. A young man, an ensign in the 77th Regiment, in trying to enter a railway carriage as the train was backed into the depot at Epsom, was thrown down by the side of the track and his ankle was seriously injured by a wheel of one of the carriages. I happened to come to him soon after he was taken up from his perilous position. He was then standing on one leg, and was held erect by some of his friends. His agony was very great. I had him laid flat down on the sward, cut his boot open, removed it, and found the injury chiefly on the outer side of the ankle. The ligaments were here ruptured, and the parts were excessively contused and swollen. Without entering into any surgical details, which would be here out of place, I may briefly state that splints and bandages were necessary to give proper artificial support till the patient could be taken home or to a hospital. What was to be done? I had no such surgical appliances. I was in a great hurry to get home, and humanity forbade my leaving a fellow-being unattended. The thing that it needed was a bit of pasteboard, but how could we get it in time to leave in 20 minutes by the next train, for Epsom is at least a mile and a-half from the new station? Fortunately for me emergency always calls forth resources. As I wanted a substitute for pasteboard my first idea was to take my hat and cut it into splints. But just as I was on the eve of

doing this, I pulled the *The Times* out of my pocket, and folding it into the shape of a splint about 13 inches long and 3½ inches wide I placed it along the inner side of the leg, extending it below the ankle, and doubling the lower end under the bottom of the foot. I then asked for another newspaper, and my friend Mr. B. drew a *Punch* from his pocket, which, properly folded, was placed on the outer or injured side of the leg and ankle. I happened to have in my pocket a handful of fine cotton wool, which I placed under this splint. Three pocket handkerchiefs served to hold these paper splints securely in place. We gave our patient in the meantime a little brandy and water, and in 20 minutes after the accident we were in the train for London-bridge, where we arrived in about an hour and ten minutes.

August 9th 1865

GARRETT v. THE BANSTEAD AND EPSOM DOWNS
RAILWAY COMPANY

This was an action by a contractor against a railway company. The company really sued was the London and Brighton, who had absorbed the smaller company with whom the contract was made. The contract entered late in 1863 was to construct the Epsom line for the sum of 70,000*l.* There was a clause in the contract which provided that the company might, in case of default to complete the line, enter upon it and complete it, and charge the contractor with the expense. The real question at issue was how much was due to him. His claim was about 50,000*l.*

Mr. Bevill, Sir George Honeyman, and Mr. J.C. Mathew were for the plaintiff; Mr. Lush and Mr. Hannen were for the company.

The company had set up a cross claim in respect of works left incomplete, and which they had been forced to complete at an expense of about 90,000*l.*, so that not only would nothing be due to the plaintiff but a large sum due to themselves; whereas the plaintiff insisted that not above 8,000*l.* would be required to complete the contract. His case in substance was, that the Brighton Company had constructed works and stations far more expensive than had been originally intended, and had charged the enormous difference of expense upon him. The case, therefore, would involve, first, an inquiry into the works required by the original contract; next, an inquiry into the extent to which he had completed the works; then as to the expense which would be required to complete what remained incomplete. The contract, it should be stated, provided for arbitration by the engineer.

On the case opened, the counsel on both sides agreeing that the case involved an immensity of details and accounts with which it was hopeless to expect the jury to deal at these assizes.

The learned JUDGE said the case had gone far enough to show that it was impossible to try it out, at all events on this side the month of September (a laugh), and it would be far better at once to refer it to arbitration.

The counsel on both sides conferred, and agreed to adopt that course.

The next case was settled.

August 15th 1865

SHOCKING ACCIDENT – A most deplorable accident happened a few days since at the Epsom rifle range, which is used by the local corps of Volunteers. It appears

that a body of gentlemen were shooting at the “kneeling ranges,” there being in the marker’s mantlet with the marker a lad named Shuter, aged 12, whose father was at the firing point. There was a longer pause than usual in the firing, and the lad, probably thinking that the party had ceased firing, or was marching to a further distance, was engaged picking up the bullets flattened against the target, trailing behind him as he did so the danger flag. The party had not, however, ceased firing, but a gentleman living in the neighbourhood, and a well-known good shot, was on his knee, his rifle at the “present,” his finger on the trigger, when the father of the boy, raising his eyes to the target, saw his son’s danger, and called to the kneeling gentleman to stop, but the call came to (sic) late, for the cry arose and the trigger was pulled at the same instant, and the agonized father fell senseless to the ground on seeing his son drop. The boy was picked up and conveyed with all speed to receive medical assistance, but the injury was mortal, and he died a few hours after. A coroner’s jury brought in a verdict of “Accidental death.”

September 25th 1865

EXPLOSION OF EWELL POWDER MILLS – A terrible gunpowder explosion took place on Saturday morning at Ewell Powder Mills, carried on by Messrs. Sharpe and Davy, situate a few miles distant from the village of Ewell, in Surrey, near Epsom. The mills are spread over a large plot of ground in detached buildings, through which runs a small stream. The accident occurred in the press mill, containing one hydraulic machine for compressing wet powder into cakes. What quantity it contained at the time of the explosion has not transpired, but from the noise caused by the explosion it is inferred it must have been considerable. The workpeople had just resumed their labour at the different parts of the manufactory when a tremendous report took place, which was discovered to have been caused by the blowing up of the press-house, wherein two men had but just entered. The shock was truly terrible, and the workpeople in the other buildings were seized with consternation, for it was fully expected that all the other buildings would go, but, most fortunately, the blast did not reach them. Of the press-house not a vestige remained, and the iron hydraulic press, which stood a fixture in the centre, was hurled into an adjacent field by the force of the explosion. The two labourers who were at work there, it is reported, were literally blown to atoms. Their names were Lewis Hill and James Hoscraft. They had for a long while been in Messrs. Sharp and Davy’s service and were considered careful and experienced men. It is supposed that the explosion was occasioned by some grit or hard substance getting into the press and causing a friction, which ignited the powder. A coroner’s inquest on the remains of the sufferers will be held on Tuesday next. The explosion was seriously felt at Epsom, Hampton-court, Mitcham, and every place within 20 miles of the spot. At Ewell and many of the adjacent villages the windows of the houses were broken in by the force of the concussion, and other damage was done to property.

September 26th 1865

THE EXPLOSION AT EWELL – Yesterday evening, at a quarter-past 5 o’clock, Mr. W. Carter, coroner for Surrey, held an inquest at the Adelaide Inn, Kingston-road, on the bodies of Lewis Hills and William Dine Horscroft, age 21 and 26 years respectively, the two men who were killed on Saturday by the explosion in the press-house of Messrs.

Sharp and Co.'s gunpowder manufactory, at Ewell. After the jury had viewed the bodies the inquiry was proceeded with. The first witness examined was Michael Martin, labourer, of Ewell, who said that last Saturday morning, about 20 minutes to 9 o'clock, he was in the little wash house at the mill. Suddenly he heard an explosion on some portion of the premises, and then proceeding past the engine-house, whence the report came, he went to the spot where the press-house stood, and found it totally destroyed by gunpowder. He knew the men who were employed in the press-house;- they were Hills and Horscroft, and were called press-men. He last saw them before the explosion at a quarter before 8 o'clock, and they were then in the press-house. They wore their working dresses. They had their usual leather slippers upon their feet. Just before the time mentioned he had taken a boat containing powder from the mill. The powder was in barrels, and called "mill cake." He took in ten barrels, each of which was supposed to contain a hundredweight. Both men received the barrels at the platform by the waterside. The barrels were open at the top, and were what were called "headed" barrels; the landing or stage was of boarding, and had been totally destroyed. Witness was working in slippers, but did not on that occasion go into the press-room. The ten casks were deposited in the first room nearest the landing-place. In the house there was a press, but not in the room where they put the powder; it was, in fact, in an adjoining room, and was worked by hydraulic power by using two hand-pumps, which Hills and Horscroft would have to work. Witness had not seen the men since the explosion. He saw some remains on Saturday which appeared to be parts of human bodies. He could not tell what part they were, but believed them to be the remains of the men killed. When they received the powder they were conducting themselves properly, and were on friendly terms with one another as well as with their employers. He had never heard them speak against the latter. Had not seen any one come in or go out of the house that morning. The witness had never seen them smoke in the press-house, but they had done so in the wash-house. He could not account for the explosion in any way. James Hills, father of one of the deceased, a shoemaker of Ewell, gave evidence respecting the deceased, and said he never heard the least complaint from either of the works not being in a proper state or in any way unsafe. Dr. Samuel Barrett, surgeon of Ewell, stated that he had seen the remains in coffins on the premises of Messrs. Sharp and Davie. He could identify them as those of human beings. Latham Osborne said he saw Horscroft in the washhouse at half-past 6 o'clock. He had worked in the press-room with Hills for three days last week, as Horscroft was away. He had worked there on a previous occasion for a day or two. He never saw anything dangerous about the works, which were in proper order. Every precaution was taken with regard to the safety of the men. All that portion of the work was carried out by hydraulic power, by the use of pumps worked manually, and not by anything which would cause friction. He had never pointed out anything that was unsafe to his employers, and would not be afraid to work again in the press-room when re-erected. He could not account for the explosion. Mr. Sharp stated that only a few months back he had a new press made, which cost 500*l*. He could not account for the explosion. He also handed in a book of rules which stated that smoking was only allowed in the wash-house. He did not think either of the men would have smoked in the press-house. William Thomas Baker, millwright, said he had occasion to work in the press-room, which was under his supervision. He was last in it three weeks since, when he was repairing the press-box. He put an iron angle piece

(externally) where the dovetail had given way. The box was 2½in. wood, and 3ft. 10in. by 2ft. wide. The sides were lined with copper. The witness here detailed the repairs he had executed, and went on to say that the explosion could not have been caused by anything but fire. He thought they must have hit something with an iron spanner used for screwing up pumps. At this stage of the inquiry the court was cleared, and after about a quarter of an hour's deliberation on the part of the jury the public were re-admitted, when a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

January 25th 1866

PRESERVATION OF COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES

Yesterday a public meeting was held in the Egyptian-hall of the Mansion-house, with the view to promote the objects of the society recently established to assist in maintaining, preserving, and improving the commons and open spaces in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, to further the passing through Parliament of a measure for defining and amending the law, in accordance with the resolutions of the Committee of the House of Commons, and generally to watch the interests of the public in respect to all commons and open spaces which it is important should be preserved. The meeting was exceedingly influential, and was remarkable, moreover, for the great unanimity which prevailed upon the subject. The Lord Mayor acted as chairman, and there were present besides... The other proposition before the committee was the appointment of trustees, who should not at first have these wide powers, but who should have power to represent the public in all matters affecting the commons, to accept surrenders of rights of all kinds from those interested in them, and to mediate between the lords of the manors and the commoners and the public. The commoners had long ceased to value their rights over most of the commons near London except for the powers which they afforded of preventing enclosures. He believed they would be found willing in most cases to surrender their rights if it was clearly understood that the commons were not to be enclosed. Many of the lords of the manors, again, were disposed to act in a liberal manner towards the public. Mr. Alcock, for example, had offered to surrender to such a Board as had been referred to his interest as lord of the manor of Banstead Downs, a succession of beautiful commons between Croydon and Epsom, extending over 1,400 acres, and he made that handsome offer without any condition except that the commons should not be enclosed, and should be protected from nuisances. If such a body had been in existence he could not doubt that the case of ...

February 1st 1866

LONDON AND BRIGHTON RAILWAY COMPANY TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir - I am almost daily a traveller on the above line, and can testify (I do not refer particularly or solely to their main line) that their business is already far in excess of their capabilities. They have not enough servants, they have not enough carriages nor engines, nor have they lines sufficient to carry the trains they now run. No one can suppose that the up and down traffic of all sorts to and from Brighton, Hastings, Dover, and the Continent, the Crystal Palace, Croydon, and Epsom, as well as to all the

intermediate and minor places on these lines, could be efficiently worked on four lines, and for a mile or more on only three.

Their suburban traffic suffers more than any other. Just now, in order, and solely in order, to allay the outcry lately raised against the company by their Croydon travellers, and to obtain, if possible some friends there for the coming fight before the Parliamentary committees, they are straining every nerve to try and appease the wrath of that place; and as far as Croydon is concerned there is, I allow, rather an improvement; but then this is only by neglecting the claims of other places; and when the summer comes, with the fetes, &c., at the Crystal Palace, and those dangerous cheap excursions to Brighton, Hasting, and elsewhere, no strain they can put upon their system will prevent constant delays; and even now, so great is the press of business, that a little hitch or delay anywhere throws the whole machine out of gear, and train after train is delayed.

While making these remarks as a traveller, I think I may safely affirm, from what I have heard from various shareholder in the company, that very many consider their interests would suffer less by the loss even of some portion of their present traffic than by the increasing plethora of business, with its attendant dangers and accident, and by the heavy expenses incurred by these Parliamentary oppositions.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Croydon, Jan. 31.

A. TRAVELLER

March 21st 1866

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE

House of Commons, Tuesday, March 20

COMMONS (METROPOLIS)

Mr. COWPER, on rising to move for leave to bring in a Bill to make better provision for the improvement of commons in the neighbourhood of the metropolis and the protection thereof from nuisances, said that one of the fortunate circumstances in connexion with the position of London was, that this capital was surrounded by numerous commons possessing the natural charm of land never brought into cultivation. Within a radius of 15 miles of London there were 180 commons, containing in the whole 10,500 acres. From the earliest times some of those commons had been used for the recreation and amusement of the people, and though the law did not reserve a right of common to the public unless the land had been enjoyed as a common by some particular body, long usage had enabled the people to enjoy those commons without the risk of being considered trespassers. The maintenance of those open spaces was important for the inhabitants of the metropolis at large, but since the commencement of the Volunteer movement they had been particularly useful, as affording ground for drilling and prize shooting, which but for the existence of commons it would have been difficult, and, in some cases, perhaps, impossible to obtain. (Hear, hear.) it must be remembered, too, that as the men of science, the artists, and the literary men of the nation, all more or less lived in London, and as the business of Parliament and that of the superior courts was transacted here, the maintenance of the commons in the neighbourhood of the metropolis was a national object. (Hear, hear.) But just as those commons were becoming more valuable for the enjoyment and recreation of the people, they were being more menaced by the builder and the railway engineer. It was, therefore, a matter of moment to develope (sic), as far as we could do so, the means of preventing them from being

enclosed. The public policy in respect to these matters had been for years directed to encouraging the enclosure of waste lands. At the end of the last century there were seven million acres of land then untouched, but that acreage had been greatly reduced since. In an agricultural point of view enclosure was desirable; because in the present day no farmer liked to put his cattle on our commons. But by the Enclosure Act of 1845 a distinction was drawn in respect of all waste lands within a radius of 15 miles round London, and in respect of all waste lands within a smaller radius round other towns. It was provided that as regarded waste lands so situated Parliament should have a more direct and particular control. He proposed by the Bill which he was about to introduce to renew that distinction, and provide that the Enclosure Commissioners should not take within the operation of their office any waste lands within 15 miles of the metropolis. The proposal was to establish a Board of Commissioners who would act to some extent in the place of the Enclosure Commissioners. A careful examination into the circumstances of the commons round London showed that the dissatisfaction existing with regard to them mainly arose from the condition in which they were suffered to remain. They were ill-drained, boggy, cut up into gravel bits, frequented by tramps and disreputable persons, so that respectable persons wishing to resort to them were debarred from their enjoyment. The lord of the manor, upon whom the responsibility rested of keeping the commons in order, ordinarily derived but a very small income from it, and was not prepared to spend his own money in draining and levelling the ground, from which improvements the benefit would be mainly reaped by the commoners who turned out their cattle upon the improved pastures. In the case of the Epsom-common it was represented to the inhabitants that they could derive little enjoyment from the common in its then boggy and swampy condition, but that the rates of the parish would be diminished by the increase of houses. In that case the lord of the manor had no pecuniary advantage in the enclosure at all, and therefore, merely because the common was rather damp, it was proposed to deprive the residents in the vicinity, as well as the people of London, who frequently resorted there by railway, of a fine, open healthy space, abounding in beautiful views. (Hear, hear.) Wimbledon-common, of which so much had been heard, last year appeared to have been taken in hand for pretty much the same reason. Lord Spencer stated that numberless representations had been made to him as to the want of drainage and police regulations upon the common. In accordance with these representations he thought it right, as lord of the manor, to consider in what manner the necessary expenses might best be met. Giving to the noble lord the fullest credit for a desire to benefit the public, he yet took a course on that occasion which, under the circumstances, seemed unnecessary. For, not contented with taking steps to drain the common, he wished to improve it and make it into a park, obtaining the funds necessary for that purpose by the sale of portions of the common alleged to be particularly useful to the inhabitants. These latter, meanwhile, were quite willing to be rated for all purposes of necessary expenditure, so that the proposed outlay by the lord of the manor became quite...

May 30th 1866

SUICIDE ON A RAILWAY – An inquiry was held by Mr. Carter, coroner for Surrey, at the Arrow-inn, Cheam, near Epsom, yesterday, relative to the suicide of Mr. Charles Maplesden, aged 27 years. The deceased was a grocer, and nine months ago he married the widow of a former master, who carried on business at Lenham, in Kent.

1,300l., which he got with his wife, he invested in a grocery business at Ewell. The speculation did not answer, and he said to his shopman that he felt certain he should be ruined. Last Thursday morning he drove over to Cheam with a friend. He then walked to the Air-bridge, over the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, and waited until a train approached. The driver of the 11 30 a.m. train from London-bridge saw him jump from the abutment of the bridge as the train came near, and throw himself on the metals in front of the engine. His head and right arm were instantly cut off, the head bounded down the line for a distance of 30 or 40 yards. Mr. Smith, the station-master at Ewell, caused the unfortunate man's remains to be collected and removed to the local deadhouse. It having been proved that the deceased had been very desponding latterly, the jury returned a verdict of "Suicide while in a state of unsound mind."

April 12th 1866

POLICE

At the MANSION-HOUSE yesterday, Mr. Henry Newbery, a merchant lately carrying on business in Pudding-lane, in the name of Newbery and Co., was brought before the Lord Mayor on a warrant charged with appropriating to his own use goods of the value of 700l., belonging to Mr. William Austin, and of which he was bailee. Mr. Humphreys, solicitor, of Newgate-street, conducted the prosecution. The prosecutor, Mr. Austin, who resides at Ewell, had in the month of August last bought of a firm in Crutchedfriars 18 hogsheads of shoes, a Captain Warwick acting as his agent in the transaction. Captain Warwick, in Mr. Austin's name, warehoused the goods with the prisoner, who gave a receipt for them. Last September Mr. Austin went to the prisoner's warehouse in Pudding-lane, which he found closed, and then to the prisoner's shop in Bishopsgate. He then asked to be allowed to remove his property, but the prisoner said there was some difficulty in the way, and he could not. Mr. Austin told the prisoner that if he did not receive his goods in a few days he would proceed against him. The prisoner replied that his lease having expired, he was obliged to remove the shoes from Pudding-lane and warehouse them with one Russell, who had sold them for 1s. 3d. a pair. In October last the goods not being forthcoming, a warrant was obtained for the apprehension of the prisoner, which was intrusted to Detective Sergeant Webb, but he was not arrested until Tuesday last. Sergeant Webb said that having received information he went to a house in Church-row, Homerton, accompanied by Monger, another detective officer, where he found the prisoner concealed in a cupboard. Having read the charge to him and cautioned him, the prisoner replied that it was all right; that he was very sorry, and that Mr. Austin ought to have his goods. The man Russell, he said, had no right to part with them, he (the prisoner) only having intrusted them to him for safe custody. The prisoner added that Russell, a solicitor named Murray, and one Sendeyk, had told him that he must give them some invoices to show that he had sold the goods to Russell, or else they would lose an action brought against them in the Court of Queen's Bench. The prisoner said he did so and that they advised him to keep out of the way. He further said that the man Sendeyk had some wine and brandy warrants belonging to him, but would not give them up. When before the Court the prisoner said the officer's statement was true and that he did send the goods to Russell, who had since made away with them. Mr. Humphreys applied for a remand on the ground that the prosecutor was at present staying at Bournemouth and would have to be examined before

the case was concluded. The prisoner denied the statement of the officer that he was concealed in a cupboard when arrested, and explained that he was merely sitting in a small room. The Lord Mayor then remanded him until Wednesday next.

April 27th 1866

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE – Yesterday evening the anniversary festival of this institution was held at Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's. Sir William Fergusson presided, and was supported by the presence of the most eminent surgeons and physicians in London; indeed, a list of those entitled by distinction to mention would read like a page from the *Medical Directory*. The dinner, which was provided by Messrs. Willis, was on a most liberal scale and admirably served. At its conclusion, and after the usual routine toasts had been given and warmly acknowledged, the chairman gave "Success to the Medical Benevolent College," and in doing so referred to the report of the institution which was distributed about the room, and which, as is generally the case in these charities, afforded the strongest proof, not only of its utility, but of its actual necessity. The College was founded, or rather first commenced, in 1851, as an asylum for medical gentlemen who, from ill health, want of professional success, or other adverse influence, had sunk into poverty, and for the widows who may have been left in reduced circumstances. The objects which the College is now carrying out are threefold – first, to maintain an asylum in which a hundred pensioners, who must be duly qualified medical men, or their widows, are provided with rooms and with incomes graduated according to their necessities; the second object is to provide a school in which a liberal education is given to 200 boys, the sons of doctors, at least 40 of whom are maintained entirely at the expense of the College, while the remainder are charged at the lowest rate found to be practicable; the third and last benevolent effort of the College is to provide either annuities or occasional pecuniary assistance to medical gentlemen in distressed circumstances, or to their families, when such assistance can be granted without detriment to the asylum or school, which is ever regarded as the principal object of this charity. There are at present resident in the College at Epsom 24 pensioners, each of whom is provided with three comfortably furnished rooms, an ample annual allowance of coals, and 21*l.* a year in money. The full complement of 200 boys are now in the school, and in addition to these there are many day scholars, who receive all the advantages of a first-class education on payment, but who are not necessarily the sons of medical men. The Council are, however, earnestly desirous of increasing the number of foundation scholars and of placing their maintenance and that of the pensioners upon a footing independent of the somewhat precarious support of annual subscriptions. To this end they appeal to the public on behalf of a class of professional men from whom the country derive so much advantage at so little cost and who, with so little regard to aggrandizement, and under so heavy a load of responsibility and actual danger to themselves and their families, do so much good almost unknown and almost unrequited. Sir William Fergusson brought these points of the report briefly but strongly before the guests. The best proof of the success of his appeal is to be found in the fact that between 600*l.* and 700*l.* was at once subscribed in the room towards the maintenance of the charity.

April 27th 1866

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
HOUSE OF COMMONS, Friday, April 27
ORDERS OF THE DAY

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Mr. Baring – Bill to authorize the enclosure of Epsom-common.

May 19th 1866

THE LAW OF THE TURF – A scene not creditable to the London police occurred on the Derby-day in front of the Grand Stand at Epsom, in presence of hundreds of policemen there on duty, under the immediate eye of their officers, Sir Richard Mayne himself being on the course. A “welcher,” which is, we understand, a slang synonym for a professional betting man who does not pay when he loses, was recognized within the precincts of the “sacred ring,” attempting to ply his dishonest calling. The unlucky wretch was instantly set upon by the members of the ring, hustled, beaten, kicked, and finally stripped naked and turned out, bleeding and almost insensible, on the heath, no policeman raising a finger to protect the poor devil or to arrest his cowardly assailants. Now, we have no particular sympathies either with “welchers” or with members of the betting-ring; but we think that this tacit concurrence of the police in lynch law is a weapon which has a good deal of recoil, and may some day be exercised in a manner which will astonish the very men who now most loudly applaud it. Members of Parliament – nay, members of the Jockey Club – have been known to bet and not to pay; and the sight of a defaulting nobleman or a levanting M.P. bonneted, belaboured, and stripped of his clothing by his disappointed creditors, and turned naked into the street out of Tattersall’s yard on settling day, would probably not give so much satisfaction in high places as did the humbler but not less brutal welcher-bait which was suffered to take place last Wednesday on Epsom Downs under the very noses of the police and their officers. Not many days have elapsed – two – since a sporting contemporary recorded with glee the spirited act of a noble duke, who directed his servants to capture and imprison certain “touts” who were watching his horses when running a trial. However vexatious it may be to a duke that his trials should be watched by “touts,” the latter have an undoubted right to watch them if they please, the object of both the duke and the “touts” being the same, to gain a special knowledge which shall afford them a special advantage over the less well-informed public in making bets. This introduction of lynch law in racing matters will certainly recoil on those who promote it. In no case should the police wink at or tolerate outrages of the kind, no matter how humble or how culpable the victims may be. The laws of the land are quite strong enough to deal even with “welchers” and “touts.” – *Pall-Mall Gazette*.

May 22nd 1866

THE LAW OF THE TURF – Under this heading, in *The Times* of Saturday, a paragraph was quoted from the *Pall-Mall Gazette*, giving an account of a brutal assault made upon an alleged “welcher” in front of the Grand Stand on the Derby-day. In connexion with the matter referred to, Thomas Hodgson, of Holbeck, near Leeds, commercial traveller, was yesterday charged before the magistrates sitting in petty sessions at Epsom with stealing 7l. 0s .6d. from the person of James Hartley, otherwise

John Hargreaves, the alleged welcher. Mr. Harrowell, solicitor, of Epsom, defended the prisoner. James Hartley, the prosecutor, said he lives at the Brunswick Hotel, Piccadilly, and attended Epsom races on the Derby-day. He is a betting man, and was in Langland's stand. Some dispute arose with persons betting with him on the Derby, and he was surrounded and knocked down, and his money taken out of his pocket. The prisoner was among those who assaulted him. He saw him put his hand into his pocket, but could not swear that he took anything out. Some police-constables came, and witness saw one in plain clothes apprehend the prisoner. The witness lost his watch and chain, and between 120*l.* and 130*l.* in gold and silver. He was struck and kicked, and his clothes were torn. On being cross-examined by Mr. Harrowell, the witness said he changed his name from Hartley to Hargreaves because he betted with a list. It was not because he had not paid his bets. He always paid his bets. He did not remember seeing the prisoner before the disturbance. The ticket produced was one of his betting tickets. The disturbance began a little before 3 o'clock. It began by people who had betted with him demanding their money back. They did not tell him he had been "welching" them or was going to "welch" them. James Hutchinson, 576A, said he saw a disturbance in Langland's enclosure, and on going there found the last witness in the hands of a mob, who were knocking him about and tearing his clothes. Several persons said the prosecutor was a welcher. The prisoner had his right hand in the prosecutor's pocket, and the witness took it out. The prisoner kept both hands shut till the charge was entered at the station, and then 5*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* was in one hand, and 1*l.* 2*s.* in the other. He had also the two betting tickets produced. Cross-examined by Mr. Harrowell, the witness said he heard the prisoner say he had been betting with the prosecutor, and found him to be a welcher. Several persons accused the prisoner of being a welcher. The prisoner refused to open his hands at the station at first, and said that what he had got there was his own, and he wished to explain himself. William Stead, 652 A, confirmed the evidence of the last witness. Mr. Harrowell said he had a most complete answer to the charge, but Mr. Carter, the chairman of the Bench, intimated that the evidence of the prisoner being seen in the act of taking the money out of the prosecutor's pocket left no alternative but to send the matter to a jury. The prisoner, therefore, by the advice of his solicitor, denied the charge, reserving his defence, and was committed for trial at the ensuing Surrey Sessions, the Bench accepting bail – the prisoner's own recognizances in 50*l.*, and two sureties in 25*l.* each – which was at once given, and the prisoner left the court with his friends.

June 13th 1866

THE FRACAS ON EPSOM DOWNS
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir – I am requested by the friends of Mr. Hodgson, who was tried last Monday on the charge of stealing from a betting man on the Derby Day, to inform you that with the kind assistance of the two honourable members for Leeds the facts of his case were laid before Sir Georg Grey, who, on Saturday last, advised Her Majesty to grant a free pardon, and Mr. Hodges was immediately released from custody.

Having regard to the great public attention this case has attracted and to the serious injury ordinarily resulting from a conviction for felony, it is only fair to Mr.

Hodgson that it should be known that the conviction in this case was the result of a mistake, as the following facts will show.

The day after the sentence some of the jury intimated that they did not intend to find Mr. Hodgson guilty of “feloniously taking” the money of the prosecutor, but that, acting upon the ruling of the Court, they felt bound to return the verdict they did, and imagined that a small fine would have been imposed upon the prisoner.

The ruling of the Court was to the effect that if the jury were satisfied that Mr. Hodgson had taken the prosecutor’s money against his will, and with intent to deprive him of the ownership thereof, they would find Mr. Hodgson guilty. This ruling was objected to by Mr. Lilley, who directed the attention of the Court to a case in *East’s Reports*, in which it is clearly laid down that the taking of goods under a fair claim of right even by force is no larceny, for although the seizure be wrongful, the intent to steal is wanting; the Court, however, declined to act upon that case.

Every fact rebutted the idea of any intention to steal; but, on the contrary, proved that Mr. Hodgson, believing he had a right to do so, endeavoured to get back his money. His conduct may have amounted to trespass, but certainly not to felony.

It has been stated in some of the papers that the jury signed a petition praying for mitigation of the sentence, and that Mr. Lilley, in presenting it to the Court, said “that the facts of the case were such as to compel the jury to convict.” The learned counsel made no such statement; on the contrary, he, in the strongest possible terms, disapproved the verdict.

The following is a copy of the document signed by 11 of the jury who were present in court when the application was made, the twelfth juryman afterwards informed me that he opposed the verdict, and contended for one of “not guilty.”

“Sessions House, Newington, June 6, 1866

“We, the jury who tried Thomas Hodgson on the 4th inst., beg to represent that it was and is our opinion that in taking the money from the prosecutor he did so as his own, believing he had a right to it, and that he did not intend feloniously to take the money of the prosecutor, and we beg strongly to recommend that the sentence should be mitigated to a nominal one.”

Trusting you will have the goodness to insert this letter,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES HARROWELL,

Solicitor for Mr. Hodgson

Epsom, June 11

July 11th 1866

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE, Tuesday, July 10...

WINDSOR, July 6

The Queen has ratified schemes of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and granted an order relative to the churchyard at Epsom.

October 1st 1866

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir – I am very glad to see “T.H.L.’s” letter in *The Times* of to-day. I am myself a smoker, but am not allowed to enjoy a cigar on the journey to or from London, although I am compelled to travel 40 miles daily in a carriage reeking with the smell of stale

tobacco, which is the state of every carriage on the Wimbledon and Epsom branch of the London and South-Western Railway.

It is simply impossible now to stop the practice, but if the directors would concede us one smoking carriage on each train I am sure the gentlemen using the line would gladly assist the officials of the company in preventing smoking in any other part of the train.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,
WINTHROP M. PRAED

Birch-grove, Mickleham, Sept. 29.

October 4th 1866

SMOKING ON RAILWAYS TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir – In reference to the observations of “F.R.S.” in *The Times* of to-day, permit me, as an annual ticketholder for many years past, to state that the great majority of daily travellers on the South-Western line are either smokers or, like myself, non-objectors to smoking, and it is only the dogged obstinacy of the directors, or rather some of them, and their utter indifference to the wishes of their passengers, which prevents them from following the good example of some other Boards by simply causing two or three carriages to be labelled “Smoking Carriage.”

Some ten years since, when I was an annual ticketholder on the London, Brighton and South Coast line, a requisition, signed by many hundreds of first-class ticketholders, smokers and non-smokers, was presented to the Board, requesting that certain compartments should be set apart for smokers. I obtained the signatures of most of those residing at Epsom and Leatherhead, many men of great wealth and influence, magistrates, bankers, merchants, and professional men, as well as others equally worthy of consideration; but all in vain. We understood that one old gentleman on the Brighton Board had, like King James, made up his mind that smoking must be put down, and that such a frightful enormity should not be sanctioned on their line. Providentially he was not an M.P., or he might have induced his brethren of the railway, gas, and water interests, who have so much weight in Parliament, to insert an awkward clause into the Smoke Act, “That every man should consume his own smoke.”

Well, Sir, instead of complying with the reasonable request of the passengers, the Board gave stringent orders to their servants to put down smoking by enforcing pains and penalties. We, on the other hand, in self-defence, formed protection societies, each member undertaking to pay his quota towards any fine inflicted under the auspices of the company on a brother. A 40s. fine came to about 6d. a-head.

One gentleman was summoned and fined three times in one week, and then left in peace. I never heard of any other member being annoyed.

It is right to say that certain carriages were filled with smokers only, but of course the annoyance was felt by others who afterwards entered these carriages unaware that they had been so used, and this might have been obviated by a simple label on the door.

Coach, omnibus, or steamboat, all have some place in which a man can enjoy his smoke if he be so minded. Then who or what, pray, are railway directors that they alone should not only neglect, but refuse to provide similar reasonable accommodation?

As for the Brighton Company, a large proportion of their passengers, feeling they had been “slighted” enough, took tickets by the South-Western as soon as that line was opened to Epsom and Leatherhead.

The former company have now a new and less aristocratic chairman, they will soon open a more direct route into our country, and if they are wise, and provide nicely-appointed smoking carriages, many a man who dislikes breaking rules – no matter how unreasonable – will be tempted to try their line again. But I am afraid that directors, secretaries, and managers are so absorbed in considering their own dignity and importance that the art of attracting permanent traffic by superior convenience and accommodation, and judicious concessions, is beneath their notice, their capacities being limited to “monster excursions” and “cheap trains,” “race meetings” and “prize fights,” the “greatest possible number of hours at the seaside for the smallest possible sum.”

They cannot see that every one of these at present insignificant suburban stations may develop into a “Croydon” if properly accommodated, and that one of the first inquiries before building, buying, or renting a house is, How about the railway arrangements?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ONE WHO CAN'T REACH TOWN UNTIL 8 40
NOR LEAVE IT AFTER 9 30

On the South-Western Railway, Oct.3.

March 14th 1867

THE VOLUNTEERS – The London Scottish and the 19th Middlesex have just terminated a rifle match, which has been shot at the Epsom range. The arrangement was that ten of each rank of one corps should fire against a similar number of the other, thus – ten officers, ten non-commissioned officers, and ten privates. The scores were:- Officers of the 19th, 383 points; London Scottish, 378. Non-commissioned officers of 19th, 423 points; London Scottish, 438. Privates of 19th, 429; London Scottish, 409. Thus there was a majority on the total scores of ten points in favour of the 19th. The London Scottish had the disadvantage of having two men absent, but the lowest scores were allowed for them.

March 27th 1867

THE STRIKE OF THE ENGINE-DRIVERS
LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST
RAILWAY

Yesterday the engine-drivers on the London, Brighton, and South-Coast Railway put into effect their predetermined resolution to strike in case the demands which they recently made were not granted by the directors...

As may be anticipated, great confusion and considerable excitement prevailed yesterday at the company's terminus. Virtually all traffic was stopped between London and Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, St. Leonard's and Chichester. The Epsom Spring Meeting opened yesterday, and the disappointment of hundreds of sportsmen, who had intended to go down by train, was expressed with such freedom and vigour as sorely to test the patience of the officials who remained at their posts...

March 28th 1867

TERMINATION of the ENGINE-DRIVERS' STRIKE

The directors of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway and the engine-drivers and firemen employed on their various lines came yesterday to an amicable arrangement with respect to the points of dispute between them, or rather as to the only one which remained a subject of controversy up to Tuesday evening, the directors having previously conceded all the rest, and, therefore, the strike is at an end, both parties having yielded. Yesterday morning all the drivers usually employed south of Three Bridges, or between Brighton, Portsmouth, and Hastings, about 100 in number, out of the 196 who had struck, with an equal number of firemen, resumed work, and throughout the day the trains on the main line from London to Brighton or Portsmouth, and from London to Hastings, were running according to the time-tables, and at the ordinary speed, and to-day, when the rest of the locomotive staff shall have returned to their duty, the main line and the different branches will again be in full working order. Up to Tuesday evening the only remaining difference had reference to the demand by the men that the increase of wages should be regulated at the rate of 6d. a day additional for every six months' service until the *maximum* of 7s. 6d. a day was reached; and yesterday, the men having received an assurance from the directors and superintendents to the effect that every man shall have an opportunity of proving his claim to the promised advances in the scale of wages, they consented to resume work, depending on that arrangement being carried out to the letter. The graduated scale of wages agreed to was – for drivers, 6s., 6s. 6d., 7s., and 7s. 6d. a day; and for firemen, 3s. 6d., 3s. 9d., 4s., and 4s. 6d.; and arrangements will be made by the directors and superintendents for having the pay-sheet reconsidered at the end of each year, with the view of advancing such of the men as are competent, and whose general conduct is good. It is creditable to the men that in adjusting the matter in dispute in that way they expressed a hope that for the future things would go on more comfortably between them and their employers, and that the company would be saved the expense of such a struggle. With those mutual concessions and a spirit of forbearance manifested on both sides, the contest have been happily brought to a conclusion with only a day's inconvenience and loss to themselves and the public. The men, while in the best temper at the result, are not unduly elated, and the probability is that their employers and they will pull all the better together in future for this brief interruption in their relations. In London and at New-cross, the men held out in the morning, and the delegates sat in council as on the day preceding, at the Green Man, Tooley-street.

Justice has hardly been done to the efforts made by the authorities of the line to meet the emergency of Tuesday, on the commencement of the strike. With the aid of some of the old hands who had refused to join the movement, and of travelling inspectors and foremen of works on the line, they were enabled to start 18 engines from the London terminus in the course of the day, and so to run the principal Brighton trains and the corresponding trains thence to Hastings and Portsmouth; but the trains on the smaller branches to Bognor, Littlehampton, Eastbourne, and Hailsham were entirely suspended. On the suburban lines around London, instead of trains being run according to the time-tables, they were run as frequently as possible, stopping at all the stations, and taking up passengers as they went. By that arrangement all the suburban passengers were accommodated, though not with the same punctuality as ordinarily. Many of the season

ticket-holders and other passengers residing in the neighbourhood of Sydenham, Forest-hill, and Croydon availed themselves of the trains of the London, Chatham, and Dover and of the South-Eastern Companies, though at more or less inconvenience. Though Tuesday was the first day of the Epsom Spring Meeting, the London and Brighton Company did not attempt, under the circumstances, to run trains on their line to the Downs, and the consequence was a considerable loss to them, and again yesterday, when the branch line to Epsom was still closed. Mr. Scott, the manager of the London and South-Western Railway, however, had given orders that the season-tickets of the London and Brighton Company should be recognised by their servants in trains to or from Waterloo and Clapham Junction, Wimbledon, Ewell, Epsom, and Leatherhead, and on the West London line to ...

May 7th 1867

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON – The Council, scholarship. A resolution was passed for the free admission annually, under certain regulations, to the medical classes of the College and Hospital of one foundation scholar from the Epsom Royal Medical benevolent College...

May 14th 1867

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE – The distribution of prizes in the Faculty of Medicine took place yesterday, when the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, M.P., presided. The Dean of Faculty read the report which stated that... In addition to the prizes held out as inducements to exertion the council had thought it right to show their appreciation of the value of the education bestowed on the sons of members of the medical profession at the Royal Epsom Benevolent College by establishing four free scholarships for foundation scholars of that institution who should have passed the matriculation examination of London. This had emanated from a suggestion made by Dr. Carr, a late student of the college, who had also suggested that assistance should be extended to the sons of deceased members of the medical profession, or of those who were prevented by calamity or sickness from providing for the education of their families, and he had offered to raise a fund sufficient for the maintenance of those gentlemen during their student career, he himself contributing 1,000.

August 20th 1867

Edward Martindale, a well-looking man of 29, a cabinet maker by trade, who was remanded from last Session, was indicted for having feloniously married Maria Dorset, his wife Jane Bagley being still alive.

Mr. Oppenheim prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended.

On the 14th of June 1859, the prisoner married Jane Bagley at Sculcoates, Hull. He lived with her for about two years, and they had one child. He then deserted her, and was employed at the establishment of Messrs. Maples, cabinetmakers, Tottenham-court-road. They sent him to a gentleman's house to work, and there he became acquainted with one of the maid-servants, Maria Dorset. To her he paid his addresses, and to her father, who lived at Epsom, he wrote a letter asking for his consent to the marriage. The father instituted inquiries, felt satisfied that the prisoner would make an excellent

husband for his daughter, and assented. Accordingly the prisoner went through the ceremony of marriage with the girl Maria Dorset at St. Stephen's Church, in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and then it very soon became known that the prisoner was already a married man. The prisoner at first denied this accusation, but subsequently he admitted its truth, alleging, however, that the first marriage was illegal, inasmuch as the first wife had married him not in her rightful name of Jane Bagley, but in that of Jane Ann Bagley.

The first witness in support of the prosecution was John Bradbury, who is the parish clerk of Sculcoates Church, Hull, and was present when the marriage took place between the prisoner and Jane Bagley. He observed that Jane Bagley was now present, together with the child, the offspring of the marriage.

The marriage of the prisoner to Maria Dorset on the 9th of March, 1867, at St. Martin's, having been proved,

Henry Dorset, the father of the young woman, said that after the marriage of the prisoner with his daughter he went to visit them at Dartford, and then discovered for the first time that the son-in-law was already a married man. Some angry altercations between them took place upon that occasion, which ended in the witness offering, at his own expense, to send the prisoner to Paris, in order that the scandal of the second marriage might blow over. At first the prisoner was willing to go, afterwards he refused, and then he was given in charge.

In cross-examination the witness admitted that for four weeks before he had given him in charge he knew that he was a married man.

Maria Dorset, the second wife, a good-looking young woman, then presented herself. She candidly admitted that she knew from the prisoner's own lips, before she married him at St. Martin's Church, that he was a married man already, adding that the prosecution was very much against her will indeed.

When the case closed,

The prisoner addressed the jury at great length, partly in a ludicrous and partly in an acrimonious strain. He said he was only 21 years of age when he was married to the first wife; that marriage was, on his part, a great mistake for she was a woman who kept two lovers on hand beside himself, and was, moreover, troubled with a most violent temper. He had opposed the marriage in the first instance, but she insisted that it must take place at once, and said that if it didn't she would go into a nunnery. He had been thoroughly henpecked from the beginning to the end. Under these circumstances he threw her overboard, and married Maria Dorset, with whom he had lived happily, and with whom he hoped to live happily yet.

The jury having returned a verdict of *Guilty*,

The RECORDER, in passing sentence, said the prisoner had been convicted on the clearest possible evidence of the crime of bigamy, and that there was nothing in the case to mitigate the sentence which ought to be passed. The fact was, the prisoner got tired of his first wife and deserted her, and then induced the second wife to go through the form of marriage with him. The sentence of the Court was that he be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for 12 calendar months.

29th August 1867

At WANDSWORTH, a working-man who was accompanied by a boy six years of age, entered the court, and presented a letter to the magistrate, who, upon reading it,

said he was very sorry for him, but he could not help him. In reply to the magistrate, the man said he went to the Board of Guardians on Thursday last, but they refused to enter into the merits of the case. It was entirely out of his power to keep the child; his wife had deserted him, and he now had no home. The magistrate said the man was under no legal obligation to keep the child, and if he were deserted the parish would be bound to take him into the workhouse. The man said he was willing to give every information about the boy, who was born at Epsom. he did not know his father. He had heard that the mother had a brother, who was a surgeon in Brighton. He had not received any money from the mother for two years, and he did not know where to find her. The magistrate instructed Sergeant Dudley to see the relieving officer, and told him it appeared that the boy was a nurse child left with applicant's wife, who had since gone away from him. Ultimately it was arranged that in the event of the parish officers refusing to receive the boy, he should be brought before the magistrate again, with a view of being removed to an industrial school.

October 2nd 1867

SUNDAY DELIVERY OF LETTERS – A post-office return shows that about 108,000 persons in England – one in 200 of the population – have given notice at their post-office requesting that their letters be not delivered at their houses on Sundays. In most of the places in which these notices have been given the number of persons thus requesting that their letters be not delivered until Monday is very small indeed, very often not half-a-dozen; but in some few towns it is extraordinarily large, and hence the total is swelled to the number above stated. For instance, in Coventry the number of letters delivered does not average so many as 3,000 a day, and yet 7,515 persons have sent requests to the post-office not to deliver their letter on a Sunday; and, again, at Epsom the letters delivered are not 700 a day, but 1,407 persons have sent in these requests. Those who have a letter only two or three times in a month may readily consent to sign a notice against Sunday delivery, and it may be that where it is desired that the letter carrier should not come to a house on Sunday the notice is signed not merely by the head of the family, but by every member of it who received letters, and that all these are counted. The Sunday delivery of letters in the United Kingdom more or less employs as many as 20,961 persons – postmaster, clerks, letter-carriers, mail guards, mail-cart drivers, and the rest; but 13,899 of the number are employed wholly or partly in the despatch of letters to be delivered on Monday, and, therefore, there are only 7,062 (about one in every 3000 of the population) who are employed entirely on account of the Sunday delivery of letters. Six hundred and ten of these are rural post messengers who do not on Sunday deliver over so great an extent of district as on week-days; and the other 2,301 rural messengers delivering letters on Sunday make only one delivery, and have their work so arranged as to admit of their attending public worship. Very few persons in Ireland, not 1000 in all, have requested that their letters be not delivered on Sunday. In Scotland the general practice is only to deliver at the office window on Sunday; in England such a practice would involve a larger amount of Sunday work than the delivery by letter-carriers.

November 13th 1867

THE NOMINATION OF THE SHERIFFS

Yesterday was the “Morrow of St. Martin,” and the ancient ceremony of nominating the Sheriffs, which from time immemorial has been held on that day, was observed in the Court of Exchequer before a crowded and interested audience. Immediately after 2 o’clock the Lord Chancellor, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (who wore his gold robes of office), the Duke of Marlborough, as President of the Council, and Mr. Gathorne Hardy, as Home Secretary, entered on the Bench, accompanied by the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen’s Bench, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Mr. Baron Martin, Mr. Justice Willes, Mr. Justice Mellor, Mr. Baron Channell, and Mr. Baron Pigott. Mr. Arthur Helps, the Clerk of the Council, and Mr. Panton were present.

The ceremony commenced by the Queen’s Remembrancer administering an oath in old Norman French to the Lord Chancellor and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that they would not be influenced by favour or affection in the selection to be made, and the nomination immediately followed. Formerly the Sheriffs for the English counties only were nominated by this Court; but by an Act passed in the present reign the Sheriffs of Wales were ordered to be nominated on the same occasion, so that now the Sheriffs for all the counties of England and Wales, with the exception of those for Middlesex, who are elected by the citizens of London, and those for the Duchy of Cornwall and Lancaster, who are specially nominated, are decided by the ceremony which took place yesterday. The following are the names selected, and usually the first named in each county receive the commission to serve the office, - coming in rotation in the following years...

SURREY – Mr. Robert Carter, of The Grove, Epsom; Mr. Robert Hay Murray, of West-end Lodge, Byfleet; and Mr. William Farnell Watson, of Henfold, near Dorking...

There were many excuses made by persons unwilling to serve the office; but very few were allowed. One gentleman was struck off because he was a Poor Law inspector, and an excuse on account of a domestic calamity was also allowed.

December 31st 1867

SOUTH-EASTER, BRIGHTONL, AND SOUTH-
WESTERN RAILWAYS
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - Will you allow me to correct, or rather explain, your paragraph respecting the misunderstanding between the South-Eastern and South-Western Companies as to forwarding passengers between Waterloo and Cannon-street?

You are quite correct in stating that there was a clause put into the Charing-cross Railway Bill, at the instance of the South-Western Company, compelling them to form a junction with the Waterloo station before opening their railway. That line has now become the property of the South-Eastern Company, who refuse to stop their trains there, although a station (such as it is) is erected.

But, at the request of the South-Eastern Company, about a year or two since the South-Western Company allowed a service of trains to run between London-bridge station and Euston-square station for the accommodation of the public wishing a through route from the south to the north of England, and to compete with the Chatham and

Dover Company, who had a junction with the Great Northern by way of Farringdon-street and King's-cross.

When the terminus of the South-Eastern Company was extended from London-bridge to Cannon-street these trains were, of course, altered; they have since continued to run from Cannon-street to Euston-square, and have given great satisfaction to the public, particularly to those passengers in the South-western district who wished to come into the city.

But things are now entirely changed. The Brighton and South-Eastern Companies have agreed to amalgamate, and also lately determined to take in the Chatham and Dover Company, so that all competition between these companies would be at an end, and Brighton express trains were allowed to run into the Cannon-street station as a first fruit. But it was found that there were certain stations that could be accommodated by these amalgamated companies which were also served by the South-Western, such as Leatherhead, Epsom, Ewell, Wimbledon, Clapham, Portsmouth, Havant, Isle of Wight Farnborough, Aldershot, Ash, Guildford, &c., and that anything which might prove advantageous to the public using the shorter and, in most cases, quicker route of the South-Western Railway might damage the amalgamated companies; therefore immediate notice was given to the south-Western Company that all communication between the Waterloo and the Cannon-street stations would cease on the 1st of January, although the trains were put on expressly to suit the South-Eastern Company under a different state of things.

There has been no dispute about the fares or terms, as the South-Eastern Company has always received all that the trains carried between these stations, although at very high fares.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A PASSENGER ON THE LEATHERHEAD LINES

February 20th 1868

ROLLS' COURT, Chancery-lane, Feb. 19

(Before the MASTER of the ROLLS)

THE ACCLIMATIZATION SOCIETY OF LONDON v. THE
ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

This was a bill filed by the Acclimatization Society against the Zoological Society and Mr. Jeffries Stone, the amateur naturalist, of Ewell, Surrey, and Monmouthshire, to compel the delivery up of some valuable game birds, alleged to have been delivered by Stone to the Zoological Society, when in reality the birds belonged to the Acclimatization Company. It appears that the latter society was formed in 1860 for the purpose of introducing, acclimatizing, and domesticating in this country foreign birds, fishes, insects, and vegetables, whether useful or ornamental, and of propagating the breed of them as much as possible. In 1865 Mr. Jeffries Stone, then a member of the Council of the Acclimatization Company, obtained a promise from Mr. Medhurst, our Consul at Hankow, in China, that Mr. Medhurst would send him over some rare pheasants (known as Reeve's pheasants, Lady Amherst breed, and Tragopans). In 1866 the secretary of the Acclimatization Company wrote to Mr. Medhurst to remind him of his promises to Mr. Stone, whereupon Mr. Medhurst replied that, instead of forgetting his promise, he had taken a good deal of trouble to honour it, and had made two shipments of

the promised birds to Mr. Stone, and intended to send more as opportunity offered. It was then discovered that the birds sent by Mr. Medhurst had been intrusted by Mr. Stone to the Zoological Society, and hence this suit. The Zoological Society refused to give up the pheasants except to Mr. Stone, and this gentleman refused to part with his right of possession on the ground that Mr. Medhurst consigned the birds to him personally, quite independently of any consideration as to whether he belonged to one society or another. Mr. Stone's position was supported by an affidavit of Mr. Medhurst, who admitted that in whatever he did he meant to oblige Mr. Stone mainly, being satisfied that Mr. Stone would do the best he could for the public in attending to the breed of the birds, and sending them, as he thought fit, to proper depositaries.

The COURT reserved judgment.

Mr. Baggallay, Mr. Southgate, Mr. Cracknall, Mr. Downing Bruce, Mr. Kekewich, and Mr. Latham appeared in the ...

June 2nd 1868

THE THUNDERSTORM – Yesterday Mr. Carter, coroner for East Surrey, held an inquiry at the Green Man tavern, Ewell, relative to the death of Thomas Turner, aged 50 years, who was killed by lightning on Friday last. Charles Monday, 163, Trafalgar-street, Walworth, deposed that on Friday last he was one of a party of five persons who left the True-to-the-Core publichouse in Newington-causeway to go to the Oaks. The deceased, who was an omnibus-driver, acted as coachman. They were in a four-wheeled trap. When they arrived at Ewell they noticed a very dark and heavy cloud approach, and they drove the trap beneath tree in the Reigate-road to wait till the storm passed. Three of the party went into the Green Man, leaving deceased and Mr. Draper, the landlord of the True-to-the-Core, to mind the horse. The storm broke with great violence, and the lightning struck the men and horse five minutes after it commenced. John Walliker, a stableman, said that he witnessed the whole occurrence. A flash came suddenly “which was like the whole world being on fire;” it struck the horse on the head and knocked it against the wall. The deceased was standing between the wheels and the horse, and he was thrown down; the other man was hurled nearly across the road, and his hat was carried across the field and torn to ribands. The flash then went in a reverse direction, and went through the wall near the ground, making a hole as it passed. The two men lay as if dead; Mr. Draper, however, was not killed; he was unconscious, and he remains in that condition still. The deceased was quite dead. There were bluish marks of burns along his throat and chest, and there was a hole in his left breast, into which the doctor was able to put his finger. His shirt and waistcoat were burnt; a piece of his vest was torn off. the horse was injured about the eye and on the back; the bridle was destroyed. The injury to the deceased was like the effect of a gun-shot wound. His clothes were burnt in parts, but they were not so much destroyed by the lightning as those of Mr. Draper. One of the boots of the latter was cut up into strips as with a knife. The jury returned a verdict of “Killed by lightning.” Yesterday evening Mr. Richards...

June 15th 1868

COURT FOR DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL
CAUSES, June 13
(Before the JUDGE ORDINARY)

PAYS V. PAYS

Mr. M'Intyre appeared for the petitioner.

In October, 1855, the petitioner and the respondent were married at St. George's Hanover-square, and they afterwards lived together – first, at a farm near Uckfield, afterwards at Dowding Castle Epsom, and, lastly, at Gravesend. Mrs. Pays accused her husband of several assaults and acts of personal violence, and her evidence was corroborated. Since August, 1857, when the cohabitation ceased, he has committed adultery at an hotel at Hastings. The respondent was described as an army contractor.

Decree *nisi* with costs.

October 31st 1868

THE DERBY DIFFICULTY – With reference to the probable interference with the Derby of 1869 and 1870, the *Sporting Life* remarks:- “When it first transpired, a few days since, that there was some difficulty as to the course over which the future races should be run nearly everybody seemed to be in ignorance that this would not be the first or even second time that the Derby course had undergone alteration. The course over which the horses now run was laid out and first used as far back as 1848, and, instead of a gradual rise for half a mile at the commencement, the gradients were eased to that the principal ascent in the new course was in the first quarter of a mile. Old turfites will remember the course as it existed previously to 1848, when the horses were started out of sight, and ran for nearly half a mile before they could be seen from the Grand Stand. That such a state of things was not desirable became evident to the late Lord George Bentinck, who proposed and superintended the laying out of the new course, which, as most of our readers are well aware, is commanded from end to end from the Grand Stand. Before the alteration, Lord George used characteristically to observe, “If you could not see the start for the Derby, you might as well stay at home and read the description of the race in the newspapers” – so essential did he deem the complete view, from start to finish, of a race of such magnitude. It will thus be discovered that in the mere fact of the alteration of the course there is no novelty, and the contemplated deviations, in the event of their being necessary, are not so remarkable as those carried out under the direction and suggestion of the late Lord George Bentinck and Mr. Dorling previous to 1848. The original source of the difficulty between the Grand Stand proprietor and Mr. Studd may be briefly recapitulated. Mr. C.H. Carew, a gentleman of truly sportsmanlike instincts, was for a number of years owner of Walton Manor, and we believe he at first allowed that portion of the Six Mile Hill (about a quarter of a mile) which is included in the Derby course to be used for nothing, although he subsequently charged – at first 50*l.* per annum, and latterly 300*l.* for the privilege of running over this strip of land during the spring and summer meetings. In July, 1867, the estate of Mr. Carew, comprising the six Mile Hill and manorial rights, with the privilege of shooting, digging gravel, and some cottage property, were, by order of the Court of Chancery, put up to auction at the Mart in Tokenhouse-yard, and bought in, the reserve price being 20,000*l.* About March, 1868, it transpired that Mr. Studd had by private negotiation purchased the estate; but in the preceding August the committee paid Mr. Carew two years in advance at the usual rental, under an agreement, which absolutely does not expire until next August. This agreement Mr. Studd and his advisers repudiate, and assert that it does not hold good, as Mr. Carew had no power to sign such a document apart from the trustees, and that it is therefore a

worthless instrument. If we hear rightly, the Epsom executive wrote to Mr. Studd last April concerning a term of years, and even suggesting the payment of an increased rental; but to this communication no reply of any description was received until some months afterwards. The managers of the Grand Stand expostulated, and deferred to the terms proposed, but finding the new Lord of Walton Manor obdurate, they at once saw the necessity, like men of foresight and judgment, of ascertaining how a fresh course could be marked out, avoiding Mr. Studd's strip of turf altogether. This is, we believe, solely and wholly Mr. Studd's sore point, and on Monday last that gentleman wrote a brief letter expressing his determination to have nothing but his pound of flesh – that is the preposterous sum of 2,500*l.* down, as well as 1,000*l.* per annum for the use for six days every year of a quarter of a mile of his estate. The Grand Stand Committee, on their part, say they are willing to pay a handsome rental, but they decline to entertain the idea of the “smart money” which is sought to be exacted. The end of it, so far, is that at the present hour a new course is actually being laid out and made at Epsom to run future Derbies over, avoiding Mr. Studd's property entirely. It has been represented that a new course could not be made available unless the Grand Stand were removed, or that it would be so dangerous that no jockey or owner of a valuable animal would risk running; but this is purely an imaginary evil or impediment. Curiously enough the strip of land about which there is the dispute...in which the Derby competitors are almost lost to sight in the furzes, and by running on the new ground, on the lower side, the public will absolutely gain considerably as far as a spectacle can be regarded. The bend at Tattenham-Corner will, in the event of Mr. Studd's standing out, be taken on to the high ground of the fine open area by the half-mile starting-post, and, so far from there being any risk to horse or rider, the curve will be precisely the same as at present exists. Presuming that Mr. Studd remains implacable, and we feel sure that he need not hope the Grand Stand Committee will come to his exorbitant terms and “smart money,” then there is a prospect that the Derby and Oaks of next year and 1870 will become void. Mr. Briscoe, M.P. for West Surrey, who is also Lord of the Manor of Epsom, owns every inch of the Derby Course, excepting Mr. Studd's insignificant portion, and makes no charge whatever for the course; but if that gentleman were to be influenced by similar motives, the committee would be called upon to pay him a proportionate annual rental of 5,000*l.* per annum and 20,000*l.* down! – assuming that they occupied 2¼ miles (nine-quarter of running-ground.) if the Derby for the next two years should become void, by reason of the race not being run over the usual course, there would still be a great three-year old race – virtually the Derby – at Epsom over the new course.

November 3rd 1868

EPSOM RACE-COURSE
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir – So many reports having been in circulation relative to the possible postponement of the Derby for the next two years, will you permit me to furnish you with the facts of the case?

In December last I purchased of the trustees of the Carew estate the Walton-on-the-Hill manor, and all the rights appertaining thereto, for 20,040*l.* On the 3d of January Mr. Greenwood, solicitor of the trustees, wrote to Mr. H. Dorling, informing him that his clients had sold the Walton manor to me, as from the next Lady-day and as his

arrangement with him as to the use of that part of the race-course within the manor would then expire, he thought Mr. Dorling had better put himself in communication with me or my solicitors, Messrs. Farrer, Ouvry, and Co., 66, Lincoln's-inn-fields, relative to the right of running over that part of the course which abuts on my property for the future. But instead of Mr. Dorling communicating with either my solicitor or myself, he, with others, surveyed and measured off a new course, which was eventually abandoned as unsuitable, thus showing that the Epsom Grand Stand Committee would have done without my land if they could; and not until the 14th of April did they communicate with me. They then stated that, as they found so much "misrepresentation" afloat respecting Walton manor, they thought it would be the wisest plan that I should afford them an opportunity of a few minutes' conversation on the subject.

This communication was dated the 14th of April, and my reply to it the 20th. In acknowledging their letter, I expressed my surprise at hearing from them, as I thought they would have done without my land after having staked out a fresh course, and remarked that it was a pity they had not sought an interview with me at the time they were advised by Mr. Greenwood, which as a simple matter of business they should have done, instead of listening to "misrepresentation" for which I was in no way accountable; and that to avoid further misrepresentation I begged to refer them to my solicitors.

On the 27th of April Messrs. Lindsay and Mason addressed a letter to my solicitors, stating that I had referred their clients, the Epsom Grand Stand Association, to them in reference to an extension of the term of their occupation, which would not expire until the 3d of August, 1869. They said their clients would be glad to take a lease at the same rent they were then paying and had paid for some years past – viz., 300*l.* per annum; but, if I were disposed to include in the lease the use of the waste lands of the manor generally for the purpose of training as well as racing, they would not object to pay a small additional rent; and as the sum given by them to be run for depended on the amount which they had to pay, they proposed that the term should be a long one.

Now, as no such document as a lease was alluded to in my title, and Mr. Greenwood denied its existence, Messrs. Lindsay and Mason were applied to for an explanation, whereupon they forwarded Messrs. Farrer, Ouvry, and Co. the copy of a document said to be signed by Mr. C.H. Carew on the 3d day of August, 1867; granting Messrs. Dorling and Knowles a lease for two years of the portion of the course in dispute; and at the foot of this document was a receipt for 300*l.* for the first year's rent.

So far back as 1860 Mr. Greenwood seems to have been acting on behalf of the trustees of the Carew estate, when the Master of the Rolls would not consent to continue a donation to the Epsom race funds out of the annual rental of 300*l.*, and since that time Mr. Carew has had no power over the property, Mr. Greenwood having been the solicitor and receiver for the trustees, &c.

I need not comment on the document or the motive which induced Messrs. Dorling and Knowles to procure it; but certainly, after doing so and marking out their new course, they could not expect much consideration from me. My solicitors, however, after having seen me, wrote to Messrs. Lindsay and Mason that their client would not acknowledge their document, and thus matters were left in abeyance until Messrs. Dorling and Knowles had their real position brought home to them. Had they acted upon Mr. Greenwood's advice and met my solicitors at the outset they might have had easy

terms; but after the measurement of their proposed new course and the production of the two years' lease, they could not have expected the same terms.

Their independence and neglect to embrace such opportunities have brought about the present crisis, for which they have only themselves to thank, as they might, up to the last moment, have had favourable terms. At this stage Dr. Shorthouse undertook to settle the matter, and demanded the rental of 1,000*l.* per annum, besides a bonus of 2,500*l.*, one-half of which I offered to devote to a race at the Epsom Summer Meeting. I emphatically deny ever having stated that the Derby should not be run over my land. I am the last person to wish to deprive England of her national race; but I will not allow the Epsom Grand Stand Association, or anybody else, to treat me with such marked discourtesy as they have thought proper to show me, besides attempting to deprive me of my rights and my rental by an invalid document. With many apologies for thus troubling you.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Grosvenor Hotel, Nov.2

EDWARD STUDD

December 14th 1868

THE TURF – The *Sporting Gazette* says it is Mr. Chaplin's intention to sell the whole of his racing stud, with the exception of Hermit and two or three mares, from which he intends eventually to breed. The horses in training will shortly – early in the year, probably – be offered for sale by Messrs. Tattersall, without reserve, unless previously disposed of by private contract. The mares to be kept will most likely be Chanoinesse, two years; her yearling sister, and the two-year-old Bertha, by Young Melbourne – Queen Mary. The time required to manage a large racing stud successfully Mr. Chaplin considers incompatible with attention to Parliamentary duties, although he may continue to have two or three horses in training. Several offers have been refused for The Earl, who, if not sold, is far more likely to join the stud next season than reappear on the turf. The Epsom authorities have announced in the *Calendar* that the City and Suburban, Great Metropolitan, and other races, for which the distance exceeds half a mile, will be run over the new or altered course, "situated within the boundary of the parish of Epsom."

December 15th 1868

COURT OF BANKRUPTCY, *Basinghall-street, Dec. 14.*

(*Before Mr. Commissioner WINSLOW*)

IN RE E.G. BARRON

This was an adjourned sitting for last examination and discharge. The bankrupt carried on business as a warehouseman in Lawrence-lane, and he has been before the Court since October, 1866. His accounts return debts of 23,714*l.*, with assets about 5,500*l.*

Mr. H. LINKLATER, for the assignees, opposed, upon the ground that the bankrupt had not made a full disclosure of his estate. Messrs. Honey and Humphreys, the accountants, had been employed to investigate the accounts, and their report showed that a stock of considerable value was not accounted for.

The bankrupt, on being examined by Mr. Reed, his counsel, declared that he had kept back no part of his estate. He did not agree in the conclusions at which the accountants had arrived, and was prepared to pledge himself to the truth of his accounts.

Mr. Baggs (of the firm of Honey and Humphreys) and the bankrupt's son were also examined upon the accounts.

His HONOUR, in the absence of any direct evidence to impeach the bankrupt's statements, allowed him to pass his examination, and adjourned the consideration of the order of discharge until the 11th of February

IN RE CHARLES H. BARRON

This bankrupt, who was a grocer and draper at Ewell, in Surrey, was the son of the last bankrupt. His debts are 3,779*l.*; assets and property held by creditors, 1,329*l.*.

Mr. F. Knight was counsel for the assignees; Mr. Linklater opposed on behalf of creditors; Mr. Reed supported.

Mr. Commissioner WINSLOW passed the examination and adjourned the order of discharge until the 11th of February.

February 6th 1869

THE DERBY DIFFICULTY – No further doubt need be entertained as to the fate of the Derby and Oaks of 1869 and 1870, for the difficulty has been settled at last on the following terms:- The Grand Stand Association is to pay Mr. Studd the 2,500*l.* premium originally demanded, and also the 1,000*l.* a year rental for the ground required; and they are to have a 21 years' lease of the same, terminable at seven or 14 years. Mr. Studd gives half the 2,500*l.* bonus to be run for at Epsom this year. – *Express*.

February 12th 1869

COURT OF BANKRUPTCY, *Basinghall-street, Feb. 11.*

(*Before Mr. Commissioner WINSLOW*)

IN RE CHARLES HENRY BARRON

The bankrupt, a draper and outfitter, of Ewell, Surrey, applied for an order of discharge.

Mr. Finlay Knight, for the assignees, did not oppose; Mr. Harvie Linklater opposed for creditors; Mr. Reed supported the bankrupt.

In this case opposition was raised to the discharge on the ground that the bankrupt had vexatiously defended an action brought against him for the recovery of a debt, and on the further ground that his failure was attributable to rash and hazardous speculations. The bankrupt came before the Court on his own petition, in consequence of the pressure of creditors. At the period of the adjudication proceedings were pending against him at the suit of the assignees of his father (who was also a bankrupt), and on a reference to an arbitrator an award was made after the bankruptcy in favour of the plaintiffs, although the bankrupt insisted that nothing was, in fact, due from him. Between March, 1867, and the date of the failure, which occurred in November, the bankrupt entered into a number of speculative transactions. He purchased Great Eastern Railway shares and Atlantic Cable shares, and it appeared that a loss of 450*l.* accrued on the various speculations. The accounts showed debts of 3,600*l.*, against assets already realized of 500*l.*

His HONOUR, after a lengthened hearing, held that there was no sufficient evidence of the commission by the bankrupt of any statutory offence, and granted the order of discharge.

An order of discharge was also granted to Edward George Barron, father of the bankrupt who had carried on the business of a warehouseman in Lawrence-lane and King-street, Cheapside.

April 13th 1869

THE GRAND STAND AT EPSOM – The case known as “The Grand Stand at Epsom v. the Parish of Epsom” was heard at the Surrey Sessions on Saturday, before Sir Thomas Tilson and Mr. Penrhyn. It was an adjourned appeal from the January sessions by the Epsom Grand Stand Association against the rating of the parish authorities of Epsom, and the court was crowded with persons connected with the racing profession. Mr. Chambers, in opening the proceedings, said that the Court might recollect that on the last occasion the Grand Stand Association were in great difficulties, as it was doubtful whether the Derby would have been run this year, but he was happy to say that since the adjournment arrangements had been made by Mr. Studd, the owner of the piece of ground on Walton-on-the-Hill, which settled that matter, the association agreeing to pay Mr. Studd, 2,500*l.* premium, and 1,000*l.* a year, terminating at the expiration of seven, 14 or 21 years; Mr. Studd also agreeing to hand over the sum of 1,250*l.*, to be run for this year on two days in the Derby week – viz. Tuesday and Thursday. At the former hearing of the appeal the Court, with the consent of both sides, agreed to an adjournment for the purpose of having the accounts made out and examined, so that the Court would be able to see the actual receipts and expenditure of the association, showing what profits were made from their venture. The accounts were made up for 1867 and 1868, and the estimate for the present year, and it would be clear from these that the Grand Stand at Epsom ought not to be rated beyond 2,000*l.* a year, instead of 4,500*l.* as at present. He called Mr. Francis Knowles, who said he was a shareholder and trustee of the Epsom Grand Stand Association, and was appointed by them joint manager with Mr. Henry Dorling. The shares of the association amounted to 28,000*l.* Witness perfectly understood the racing profession. He recollected the lease being granted to Mr. Dorling in 1845, for 21 years at 1,000*l.* a year, which expired in 1866, when he declined to enter into another lease on those terms. Witness and Mr. Dorling were then appointed by the shareholders to manage their affairs. At that time a new assessment was made, 4,500*l.* gross rental, against which they appealed. The grand stand was on an acre of ground rented from Mr. Briscoe, the lord of the manor, at a rental of 35*l.* a year. Mr. Heathcote also owned the paddock, and in the lifetime of his father no rent was paid. The association had to pay large sums for advertising the guarantees. The association also paid the judges, clerks of the course, and money-takers; and they had to keep the course in order, besides paying for the police, &c. There were donations last year. The Brighton and the South Western Railway Companies gave 50*l.* each; Mr. Briscoe gave 400*l.* in both years. Mr. Heathcote was also very liberal, although he had to pay him 1,000*l.* a year for the paddock. He had calculated the whole of the receipts and expenditure for the last two years, and was of opinion that they would have a profit this year of 2,737*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* if all went well. Witness considered that a tenant taking the Grand Stand at a rental of 2,000*l.* would be paying as much as it was worth. Mr. Henry Dorling

was examined at some length, and he said that he should not object to advise the association to accept a tenant at 2,500*l.* a year, provided the party was responsible and understood the management of such things, or he would make a mess of it. Mr. John Oates, the manager of the racecourse at Ascot, said he had had great experience, and had attended Epsom races for the last 30 years. The Grand Stand at Ascot was rated at 2,000*l.* a year, and he thought Epsom ought not to pay more. The magistrates retired, and, on their return to the Court, decided the rateable value to be 4,102*l.*, and assessed the appellants at that sum. At the request of Mr. Laxton, costs were allowed to the appellants.

July 13th 1869

BIRTHS

On the 10th July, the wife of W. MELMOTH WALTERS, Esq., of Lincoln's-inn and Ewell, prematurely, of a son, who only survived its birth a few hours.

September 13th 1869

SINGULAR SUICIDE – An inquest was held at the Middlesex Hospital on Saturday by Dr. Lankester, coroner for Central Middlesex, on the body of Anne Weston, aged 36, whose death resulted from wounds inflicted by herself upon her throat. A cousin of the deceased, named John Southgate, deposed that she was living as lady's-maid at Epsom, and had written to him asking him to come on Sunday and see her, and to take her away from her place. the letter was not received till Monday, and on going down to see her on Tuesday he found that in the meantime she had attempted to commit suicide. He had seen her since she had been in the hospital, and one occasion she wrote upon a slate the following:- "I have had presentiments for a long time that all our family were coming to something bad, and some heavy trial was awaiting us. I have been either very low, and not able to work or think of anything, and at other times my brain has been so excited that I have said anything that came into my head, whether true or false. I fear God has given me over to Satan, and he has tempted me to do this rash act, which I am now very grieved about. I hope the Lord will pardon me, and enable me to suffer anything on earth rather than let me die in my sin, and, although I cannot yet pray, I know He will do what is best in His sight." The uncle of deceased, witness said, had committed suicide, and she had sometimes been strange in her manner. She complained also to him that her letters were stopped, but this, he thought, was a delusion on her part. Lydia Wright, a cook in the same house, deposed to the change that had come over deceased, who, she thought, was out of her senses at times. Mrs. Smith, the mistress sent for two doctors immediately, and all that was possible was done. No letters of deceased, who was very religious, had ever been stopped. She was brought to the hospital under the advice of a medical gentleman connected with the institution. The evidence of the house surgeon and of the ward nurses having been taken, the jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict of "temporary insanity."

October 25th 1869

At WANDSWORTH ROBERT L'ANSON, who was described as a horse trainer at the Warren, Epsom, was charged with violently assaulting Mr. William D. Gerrard, a broker at Lloyd's, residing at Merton-lodge, Wimbledon, by pulling his beard. The

complainant said that on Friday night he was a passenger by the 10 40 train from Waterloo station. The prisoner was in the same compartment, and he requested the guard to remove him, as he was intoxicated. The guard did not think proper to do so, and he remained. After the train left Clapham Junction station the prisoner continued to annoy him, calling him a puppy, and pulling his beard with both hands, when another passenger interfered and released him. At Wimbledon station he gave the prisoner in charge. Witnesses were called who proved that the prisoner was not sober. The prisoner's defence was that the complainant called him a thief, but that was denied. Mr. Dayman said the prisoner had committed an outrageous assault. The guard had no right to admit drunken persons into a carriage, when they must be an annoyance to other passengers, but he might put them into another carriage by themselves if he liked. He committed the prisoner for 14 days with hard labour. An application was afterwards made for the magistrate to impose a fine, but he refused to alter his decision.

December 24th 1869

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE – Considerable excitement was created in the usually quiet village of Ewell, near Epsom, on Wednesday morning about half-past 3, by a loud explosion, at first supposed to proceed from the powder mills close to the village. It appeared, however, that about the time mentioned a person named Spooner was preparing to come up to London with a load of flour, and his wife was getting breakfast for him. She went out of the house to get some coals, and saw a man waiting outside. She returned to the house screaming, and her husband closed in a struggle with the man who had followed her. In the struggle the stranger threw a bag of some explosive substance on the fire, and the house was blown pretty well to pieces, the wall dividing one house from the other being blown down. A man employed as a porter at the South-Western station at Ewell, who had recently come to the station, had some of his ribs broken and sustained other serious injuries. The husband was seriously hurt, and is not expected to recover. The author of the mischief afterwards committed suicide by stabbing himself. He died at half-past 10 yesterday. The motive of the outrage is stated to have been jealousy, and the suicide, we understand, confessed before his death that he had obtained the powder by breaking into the powder mills at Ewell-marsh. – *Globe*.

December 28th 1869

THE OUTRAGE AT EWELL

Yesterday morning, at 10 o'clock, Mr. W. Carter, coroner for East Surrey, opened the inquiry respecting the death of the man Huggett, who, as has already been stated, was killed by self-inflicted injuries and the explosion at Ewell. The inquest was held at the Hop Pole Tavern, opposite the house where the explosion occurred.

The jury having viewed the body of the deceased,

The CORONER said if they found that he had killed himself while of sound mind, and while in the act of committing a felony, they would return a verdict of *felo de se*. The inquiry would chiefly turn upon that point.

Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson, the wife of James Richardson, a carman, said she lived as housekeeper in West-street, Ewell, with Mrs. Spooner, who had been ill since July of the present year. On Wednesday morning last, witness got up about 20 minutes to 4 o'clock and lighted the fire. Mr. and Mrs. Spooner were then in bed. The other

occupants of the house were William Smith, George Mason, and Mr. Spooner's two children. On going outside the house to a shed for the purpose of getting fuel, witness saw a man sitting on the coals with a bag between his knees. She recognized him as Thomas Huggett, a sack and bag maker, who worked at Mr. Lee's factory at Rotherhithe. She had known him 12 years, and while she was looking at him he passed his hand over his chest three times. As he had threatened to take his life on several occasions she became alarmed, and at once ran into the house screaming. At the top of the staircase she saw Mr. Spooner, and she then ran into her bedroom. In about two minutes afterwards she heard the explosion, and was so much alarmed that she did not leave her room until every one in the house had gone away. When she got down stairs she saw Huggett, whose face was blackened by the explosion. Huggett had threatened to kill her because she refused to live with him, which she had previously done, as man and wife for some months. She left him because her husband persuaded her to do so, and she went back to her home. Huggett last saw her in August. He did not speak to her, but he tore the clothes off her back. He said he would kill her by cutting her throat or shooting her. If it should be shown that he blew up the house with gunpowder, she would believe that he did so for the purpose of killing her. She found some grains of powder after the explosion. She never went through any form of marriage with Huggett. The reason why she left her husband was because he was unkind to her, and Huggett persuaded her to leave him.

James Hill, a shoemaker, said that on the morning in question he heard a noise of scuffling between men on the floor of the house where the explosion occurred in West-street. This witness lived next door. He ran out of his house, and then found that part of the wall of the next house had been blown down. He saw the deceased lying on the floor, and spoke to him, but the deceased did not reply. The brick and wood partition between witness's house and Mr. Spooner's was blown down. The witness was so much alarmed that he could not recollect much.

Edwin Grantham, carpenter, living in West-street, said he heard the explosion while he was in the house adjoining Spooner's. he went into Hill's house, and on the floor in the parlour he saw the deceased. Near the left side of the breast, near his heart, was a wound, from which a large quantity of blood flowed. There was a slight cut across his throat. He was carried to the Hop Pole, and was there asked where he obtained the powder from. He replied, "I stole it. I had about 1lb. of it in my pocket." Upon being asked why he did it, he replied, "Jealousy; I want to see her now." His request was not granted. He was then asked what he had in the little bottle that was found upon him, and he replied, "Rum." The pocket-knife was stained with blood.

A witness, whose name did not transpire, stated to the Coroner and jury that Huggett had the knife open when he entered the house. in his other hand he carried the bag of powder. It was evidently his intention to have cut the woman's throat, and he was going upstairs for that purpose when he met Mr. Spooner and had a scuffle with him. While the scuffle was going on Huggett threw the powder on to the fire.

Police-constable Gardener produced the clasp-knife, which had stains of blood upon it.

Mrs. Richardson recalled, said she recognized the knife as one Huggett had.

Dr. George Barns said he was called to see the deceased on Wednesday last, and found him lying in Hill's house. he was in a feeble condition. There was a wound near

his heart an inch in depth. Witness could penetrate the wound with his fingers. There was also a wound across his throat about 2½ in. long. Witness believed that the death of the deceased, which occurred in a few house after witness saw him, resulted from the combined effects of shock, resulting from the explosion, and the self-inflicted stab near the heart. Witness could not say whether the deceased stabbed himself before or after the explosion. Mr. Spooner said he saw the deceased throw the bag of powder on the fire.

Joseph Huggett, brother of the deceased, said Thomas Huggett was 31 years of age. He had never shown any signs of insanity.

Mr. Thomas O'Brien, stationmaster at the Ewell station of the London and South-Western Railway, said that on Tuesday night, when the 10 40 p.m. train from Waterloo came in, the deceased, a full-faced, dark-complexioned man, alighted from it. He had a villainous expression of countenance, and looked so terrible that witness ordered him off the station. He did not appear excited, but he had such a look that if witness had seen him in a railway carriage alone he would have gone to another compartment. When witness heard of the explosion on the following day he said, "That man I saw last night did it." He then went and saw the body of the deceased, and recognized.

Mrs. Huggett, mother of deceased, said that her son had often complained of his head. He said, "The worry of my work and thinking of that woman is too much for my brain." He then put his hands to his forehead. On Tuesday he wished his landlady good-bye, and he appeared to be in a state of insanity then.

The inquest was then adjourned for additional evidence as to how the deceased became possessed of the gunpowder, and as to his mental condition at the time of the tragic occurrence.

It is stated that Mr. Spooner, who received such severe injuries, is rapidly sinking.

Messrs. Sharpe and Co. inform us that Huggett was not in their employ, but they believe he was some years ago in the service of a person who did cartage for them, and that thus he became acquainted with their premises.

December 31st 1869

THE OUTRAGE AT EWELL

The adjourned inquest on the body of Thomas Huggett, 31, who committed suicide after blowing a house up with gunpowder, at Ewell, on the 22d inst., with the intention of destroying some of the inmates, was held yesterday at the Hop Pole Tavern, Ewell, by Mr. Carter, coroner for East Surrey.

Dr. Barnes was first called. He said he had made a *post mortem* examination of the body of deceased, and found the pericardium had been entered by a sharp instrument, which had also cut completely through the substance of the heart to the depth of from two to 2½ inches. The wound was quite sufficient to cause death, and, looking at the nature of it, he should think it was inflicted after the explosion. The wound was the exact counterpart of the blade of the knife which was found near the deceased.

Sarah Huggett, mother of deceased, residing in Jacob-street, Landport, said she last saw her son on the 6th of September. He came from London and was with witness and her daughter several hours. He did not complain of ill-health but made use of words reported at the last inquiry, to the effect that the worry of his work and thinking of Lizzie Richardson was more than he could bear. The deceased had sent Richardson to

witness's house some four years since, and in reply to inquiries she said she was married to her son. On asking, however, to see the marriage lines, Richardson said she could not then produce them, "as they were in Tom's box." Her son was of sober habits, and subsequent to the visit of Richardson witness found out that they were not married.

Elizabeth Ann Starling, widow, residing in Rotherhithe, said deceased lodged in her house up to the 21st inst., since which time she had not seen him. Witness had noticed that for the last three months he had been very dull and desponding, sometimes sitting for an hour before his meals and not touching them unless roused up. On asking what was the matter, he said it was all about a woman whom he called "Lizzie," and then he would become much excited. He said also that he had kept her in money and clothes for nearly 12 years, and, to use his own words, "Now, she has rounded on me." He used to walk about the house in such an excited manner when talking about the young woman that witness was frequently afraid he would do her and her children some harm. The witness did not think he was sane. She never heard him make any threat towards Richardson.

John James Moord, cashier at Messrs. Levy's warehouses, Rotherhithe, said deceased had been in their employ nearly five years. So far as his work was concerned they had never any occasion to be dissatisfied with him.

John Lodder, gatekeeper at Messrs. Levy's warehouse, said he saw the deceased daily. He was a very quiet, well-conducted man, but for the last three months he had not been as cheerful as usual. He spoke to witness about a woman whom he called "Mrs. Sugar" (meaning Lizzie Richardson), and said he had spent all his money on her, and would "never do any good now." Witness advised him to think no more of her, and try and lead a different life. He sometime said he would, but at other times he became sullen and would not speak. On Tuesday week when deceased went away he noticed a great change in him. He danced about the hydraulic press-room and twitched his face about in a manner witness never saw before, and occasionally he dashed a hook which he held in his hand through the sacks, saying, "I should like to serve her like that." Witness did not speak to him, but he surmised what he meant. As he was such an inoffensive man, witness did not think he would do himself any harm. The knife produced he believed belonged to deceased, as he saw it when deceased purchased it about eight or nine week since. Deceased had been drinking for some time past, and no doubt he would have drunk more had he had the money. On Tuesday night he jumped about making faces while going home with witness, and witness had little doubt that his mind became affected in respect to the woman Richardson, whom he said he had lived with. He had also heard him say he would never die till he had killed her.

The CORONER, after hearing this evidence, put it to the jury whether there was any doubt in their minds as to the wound being inflicted by the deceased's own hands.

The Foreman, acting as the spokesman of the jury, said they were quite satisfied that deceased had taken his own life after the explosion.

The evidence of a man in the employ of Messrs. Sharpe, powder manufacturers at Ewell, was then taken. He stated that the quantity stolen was about 25lb., and the deceased must have broken into the outside house of the mills to get it. No one worked at the mills at night and no watch was kept, but all the doors were securely locked. The outside house referred to, where the powder was stolen, adjoined a public way.

The CORONER then summed up, and

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased stabbed himself while in a state of insanity, and died from the injuries.

The jurymen handed the amount of their fees to Mrs. Huggett.

Mr. Spooner, who, it will be remembered, received very severe injuries at the time of the explosion, remains in the same condition, and it is stated that he cannot recover.

January 3rd 1870

THE OUTRAGE AT EWELL – On Saturday information was sent to Mr. Carter, the coroner for East Surrey, that George Spooner, the proprietor of the house where the outrage was committed, had died that morning of the injuries he had received. Spooner, it will be remembered, alarmed at Mrs. Richardson's cries, left his bedroom and met the assassin on the stairs pursuing her. A struggle ensued, in which Spooner forced Huggett down stairs into the kitchen, and was close to him when he threw the bag of gunpowder upon the fire. Since the occurrence, on the 22d ult., Mr. George Robinson Barnes, surgeon at Ewell, has been unremitting in his attention to the unfortunate man, who, however, never rallied. The proceedings at the inquest will be merely formal, as Huggett's admission that he had stolen the powder and thrown it upon the fire through jealousy rendered it unnecessary to take Spooner's deposition. The evidence taken last week will therefore simply be read over, and the verdict in the case altered.

January 5th 1870

THE OUTRAGE AT EWELL – Yesterday morning Mr. W. Carter held an inquest at Ewell on the body of George Spooner, 38 years of age, who occupied the house where the explosion occurred on the 22d ult. It will be remembered, from the evidence previously reported in *The Times*, that on the morning of the explosion Spooner, alarmed at the cries of Lizzie Richardson, jumped out of bed and pursued the man Huggett, and after struggling with him, pushed him into the kitchen, and it was while there that Huggett threw into the fire the bag of gunpowder which blew up the house. Mr. Spooner died of his injuries on Friday last. Mrs. Richardson was first called, and, after reading over the material portions of her evidence at the first inquiry, the Coroner asked her whether Mr. Spooner was present when the dead man Huggett tore the clothes off her back. The witness replied that he was not, but Huggett had been in her company in Mr. Spooner's presence. Huggett had not to her knowledge used any threats towards Spooner. Edward Grantham's evidence was also read over. Dr. Barnes then deposed to the nature of the injuries sustained by the deceased. He said on going to the house to which deceased was taken after the explosion (Mr. Warland's, in West-street), he found him suffering from some shock to the system and burns on the lower part of the body, from the hips downwards; the face also was much scorched, and the outer covering of the skin on his body came off. witness gave him restoratives and dressed the injuries, but after the second day sympathetic fever set in, and he could not retain anything on his stomach. He died at 6 o'clock on Friday. James Hills, bootmaker, residing in Well-street, said after he was aroused by the explosion he went into Mr. Spooner's house through the partition wall, and at the kitchen-door he saw deceased lying in great agony. He could not say whether his clothes were on fire. The jury then proceeded to view the body of the deceased. On their return the Coroner said he did not wish to trouble them

any further if they were satisfied as to the cause of the deceased man's death. A verdict of "Wilful murder" against Huggett was then returned, and the inquiry terminated.