



People and Accidents

Devizes

1841

A fatal accident had nearly befallen William Figgins, servant to Mr Grace, of the Castle Inn, Devizes, on Friday evening, the 8th inst, who on returning from Melksham with a fly, fortunately empty, was precipitated to the ground on his head, occasioned by the near wheel falling off, the linchpin having been neglected to be secured. The poor fellow was taken in an insensible state to the New Inn, Seend, where he has been ever since; and hopes are now entertained of his recovery, from the unremitting attentions of Mr Hoare, the surgeon, and of Mr and Mrs Cox, of the New Inn, who have afforded him every comfort that humanity could dictate. The poor man has a wife and four children, the youngest only a fortnight old, wholly dependent on him.

The horse (a spirited one) took fright and dragged the fly with the three wheels a mile and a half before he stopped.

A similar accident, we understand, occurred on the same evening to the York House down coach. In passing through Melksham, the coachman and another person on the box were thrown from their seats, and received very serious injury. As persons value their lives, therefore, they should at all times attend to the safety of the linchpins. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal Monday 18 January 1841**

1842

As Mr Ludlow Bruges was on Monday week about to return from Hinton to Seend, and in the act of getting upon his horse, the animal went off at a furious pace before Mr Bruges had time to place his right foot in the stirrup.

After proceeding some distance, the horse suddenly stopped and the violent and unexpected check threw Mr Bruges to the ground, and falling on his head we sincerely regret to state he was much injured, and remained insensible for a short time.

He was taken to his house as soon as possible, and his numerous friends will be happy to hear that, under the care of Mr Clark the surgeon of Devizes, he is now gradually getting better. **Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 31 March 1842**