



Fisherton Anger Asylum

Extraordinary Conduct of a Lunatic

On Friday and Saturday, a man named Thomas Leaver, age 26, son of Mr. Leaver, butcher, of Codford, perpetrated some most extraordinary outrages at Heytesbury. He rode into the village on Friday morning, and, after a few eccentric exploits, called at Heytesbury House, requesting the Lord Heytesbury would have a glass of wine with him. Mr. Flower, surgeon, having stated that he was suffering from *delirium tremens*, he was led home on horseback by P. S. Clarke. Afterwards, at about midnight, he left his bed and proceeded in his shirt and trousers to Heytesbury, where he arrived at about one o'clock on Saturday morning. Having wrenched off its hinges the gate of the residence of the Hon. W. I. Holmes A'Court, he forced his way into the churchyard, bursting open the iron gate, and having found a spade, which had been left on a monument, began to strip the wall of its substantial coping tile work. It is extraordinary how he could have accomplished this task in so short a time, and with nothing but a spade, but he managed somehow to take off the tiling to the distance of 20 feet or more, besides breaking open another iron doorway here. He also completely demolished a headstone, broke a very handsome memorial cross, and otherwise injured other tombstones. He burst open the south entrance of the church, but fortunately did no damage there. He was afterwards captured by some men from Codford, handcuffed by P. S. Clarke, and taken home at about two o'clock. After medical examination he was pronounced to be a lunatic, and was on Tuesday sent to the Fisherton Asylum.

Western Gazette, 22 June 1883