



People and Accidents

Melksham

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**

1843

The sanative powers of Nature have been strikingly manifested in a case of accident which the week before last came under the care of Mr Hoare, surgeon of Seend.

As Thomas Somner, the postman, was returning from Melksham to Seend, in a cart, the horse took fright and ran away, precipitating Somner with great violence from the cart, and, his head striking forcibly against the reave of one of the wheels, his face was severely bruised, and his left ear by some

unaccountable means so completely torn out of its socket, that on Mr Hoare's arrival it was found hanging down on his shoulder by the slightest portion of skin.

Mr H immediately replaced the dissevered member, and essayed the apparently hopeless experiment of making it unite by sutures and adhesive straps to its former attachments. In this he completely succeeded; the ear is again firmly ensconced in its normal position, and poor Somner, looking as comely as ever, has resumed his accustomed avocations. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 11 November 1843**