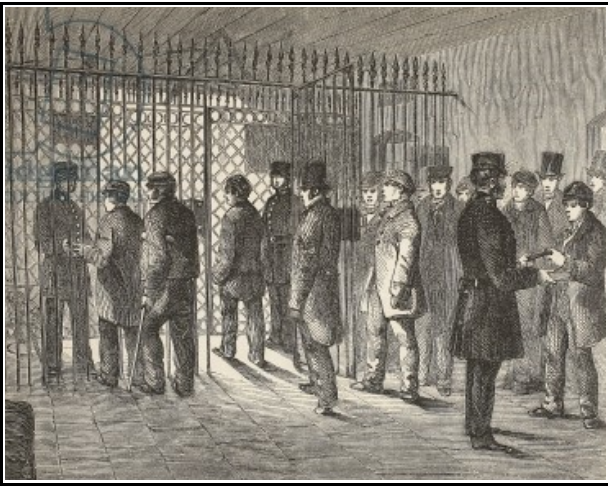


Crime and Punishment

Melksham



Prisoner Cuts Own Throat

On Monday sen'night as Inspector Merrett was returning from Devizes to Melksham, he fell in with a man named Abbott, of Seend, against whom he had a warrant for ill using his wife. He apprehended him, and having put the slip upon him, they walked together to the bridge at Summersham Brook, when Abbott suddenly took a razor from his left pocket, with his free hand, and drew it across his throat. He tried to make a second cut, but Merrett struck the razor out of his hand. After some time assistance arrived, and Mr Kendrick, surgeon of Melksham adopted the usual course in such cases. The man was removed in a cart to Seend, but is not expected to recover.

Wells Journal Saturday 17 June 1854