



CORONERS INQUESTS



Inquest Report on Ambrose Coward

A most sad and melancholy death occurred here in Mere on Friday. A man named Ambrose Coward was confined to his bed and completely paralysed and had the use of neither hand. Deceased was however, fond of smoking and managed to hold the pipe in his mouth and smoke without removing it. His wife gave him his pipe lighted and went out and when she returned the bed clothes were on fire and deceased fearfully burnt over the breast but not in the head. The pipe had evidently fallen from the deceased's lips and the tobacco caught his clothes. The agonies he must have suffered, as unable to move, he was slowly scorched, must have been horrible. He lived some hours after.

At the inquest, a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

Warminster Herald, Saturday, 9 September 1876