



Almost Fatal Accident 1853

About one o'clock on Saturday afternoon, as the Rev A Male of East Tytherton, near Bremhill, was driving through Chippenham in a phaeton drawn by a small pony, a yelping of one of the many curs which infest the streets, frightened the animal and, breaking into a gallop, it dashed off towards the Town Bridge.

Mr Male endeavoured to restrain its pace, but unsuccessfully, and the animal, on reaching the bridge, rushed against the parapet on the west side, which gave way in an instant and horse, carriage and driver were at once precipitated into the stream, from a height of nearly twenty feet, while several yards of the wall fell with them.

The carriage, in going over the wall, made a complete somersault, and Mr Male, on recovering from the shock, found himself under his carriage immersed in two or three feet of mud and water, and with his horse plunging in a space not more that twelve feet wide.

He rushed through one of the neighbouring arches and escaped, drenched to the skin, up the bank.

Strange to relate neither Mr Male nor his horse sustained more than a few slight bruises from the fall, but the carriage was much broken; and taking into account the place where the accident occurred, with the circumstances attending it, it is wonderful that either of them were saved from instant death.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 24 November 1853