



A typical turnpike gate

## *Turnpike Outrage 1833*

On the second day of the races a most serious, unprovoked and wanton outrage took place at the Lansdown turnpike gate.

William Collard, John Hill and Thomas Cottle were placed there to collect the toll; in the evening as Mr Robert Clark, solicitor of this city, was returning from the races in a phaeton and pair, having two children with him and a lady and gentleman, Hill, one of the collectors, demanded a toll of him, upon which Mr Clark produced a ticket shewing that he had passed through the gate before that day.

Notwithstanding this, Hill refused to let him pass, when Mr Clark struck at him with his whip, Hill then forced the whip from him, and with the butt end of it inflicted such severe blows on his head and body, that it is with great difficulty he can lift up one of his arms.

This barbarian attacked several other persons in a similar manner, and at length he stabbed Mr Gale of Bremhill with a pen knife in his face and neck. The three collectors were on Friday brought before the county magistrates acting for the division of Bath, and were severally fined.

Twenty other persons were at the Guildhall ready to give evidence against them, and we can safely say that such a disgraceful scene has not occurred in this neighbourhood for many years past. Hill is fully committed to our county assizes for trial for stabbing Mr Gale.

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