



Crime and Punishment

Devizes

Mystery of the Floating Cap and Trunk

Late on Saturday night, as a man was walking by the canal, between the Wharf and Park Bridges near this town (Devizes), he observed on the towing path, close to the water, a man's coat, and thinking that it might have belonged to someone who had thrown himself into the canal, he at once communicated with the police and a search was made, but without leading to any discovery.

The next morning, however, as Mr. Lenthall, clerk to Mr George W Anstie, was on his way to Mr Anstie's house with the letters that had come by the post, he observed a cap and a trunk floating upon the canal at the head of the lock below the first bridge on the Bath Road. He also lost no time in communicating with the police; and subsequent enquiries led to the following discovery.

It appeared that when Mrs Schomberg, widow of the late Capt Schomberg of Wans House, quitted Seend about two years ago, she left two boxes – one containing a large quantity of plate, the other various personal property belonging to her late husband - at Mrs Ludlow Bruges's. These two boxes had on Saturday last been brought to Devizes to be sent off by the luggage train at 4 o'clock on that afternoon, but by some oversight they were forgotten to be sent, and were left on the platform at the station, where the porter saw them safe when he went to tea at five o'clock.

On his return, however, one of them was missing; and it was this missing box containing the uniform &c of the late Capt Schomberg that was found in the canal. The thieves luckily took the wrong box, the other probably being too heavy for them to move; and finding that it contained what was of little value to them and likely to lead to their detection, they cast it, with a considerable portion of its contents into the canal.

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