



Drunkenness and Its Consequences

George Downe and Jacob Downe, two brickmakers, residing at Stert, were yesterday summoned before our borough bench, charged with being drunk and incapable on the Nursteed road, on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 13th of May last. From the evidence of P.C. Ford, it seems that he received information soon after 12 o'clock in the day, that two men were lying in the Nursteed road opposite Mr. Nisbet's lodge, and he accordingly proceeded in that direction. When he came in sight of them the younger of the two, George Downe, attempted to get up and proceed in the direction of his home, but immediately fell sprawling in the road: the other made no attempt to move. With the assistance of a waggoner who was leaving the town he got both of the men into the waggon, and they were sent on their way. They made no defence, except that the elder Downe admitted that he had been drinking, and that a little beer overcame him. The bench did not think it a very bad case, but could not overlook it, and they were ordered to pay a fine of 1s. each, and costs 8s. 3d., total 9s. 3d. each, which made their drinking bout rather more expensive than they had anticipated, and will give them something to reflect on.

Wiltshire Independent, 28 May 1874