



CORONERS INQUESTS



Inquest Report on William Pratt

Swindon

Killed on Thanksgiving Day

On the evening of thanksgiving day, in London, a highly-respectable mechanic from New Swindon, named William Pratt, met with a shocking death near Temple Bar. It appears that he entered the Strand, with his wife and other friends, where he became one of the vast crowd moving towards the Temple Bar. On arriving near St. Clement's Church, this crowd met another, and in the struggle Pratt fell, and was trodden under foot. He was rescued by the police, but his injuries were of such a frightful nature that he died in the hospital to which he was removed. At the inquest, a verdict of "Death from heart disease, accelerated by excitement and pressure of the crowd," was returned.

Western Gazette, Friday 8 March 1872

OPC Note:

On the 22nd February 1872, Queen Victoria held a service of Thanksgiving in St. Paul's Cathedral, for the recent recovery of her son, the Prince of Wales, who, in October the previous year, had contracted typhoid, sickened by foul drains at Londesborough Lodge in Yorkshire, where he had been visiting. Two other members of the party had died of the illness, including the Prince's groom.