



Shocking Accident

A shocking accident occurred on Monday last on the road leading out of Devizes towards Potterne to a young man about 25 years of age, named Richard Ashley, in the employ of Mr. Robert Coleman of Tilshead. It appears that the poor fellow had been to the petty sessions held on that day, to settle a dispute in which a younger brother was engaged, and was proceeding homewards about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when he was overtaken near the turnpike gate by a waggon, laden with slate and corn, going to Shrewton and thinking it a good opportunity to ride home, he asked the carter to let him and his companions to do so, which after some little demur, the waggon being heavily laden was assented to. They all accordingly got up and had passed the turnpike gate about 15 yards when the deceased, who was sitting in the front of the wagon, with his legs hanging over, thinking he was in the carter's place, began moving himself further back and was in the act of making a spring for that purpose when he lost his balance and fell over the side, just before the front wheel, which partly passed over his head. The carter, being at the head of the wheel horse fall back observed the deceased fall and immediately pushed the animal back, but it was too late to prevent the fatal accident; the weight of the waggon had crushed his face and jaws to atom, and killed him upon the spot.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, October 1 1846