



## **Committee for Employing the Poor – Road Building**

Salisbury.

Amongst the numerous plans which have been adopted for the charitable purpose of employing the poor, that of making and completing or improving public roads has been considered generally most useful. The beneficial effects of such an undertaking is in no instance more manifest than in the very excellent road from Wilton to Durnford, completed during last winter, at the sole expense of the Earl of Pembroke, whose liberal munificence in similar acts of benevolence and public utility will soon be further evinced in the noble road planned and now in considerable progress from our Race Course to the Warminster road, near Wilton, in which a number of the poor of Wilton have for a long time been employed by his Lordship.

We regret, however, to observe, by an advertisement in the 1st page of our Journal, that some ill-disposed person or persons have been endeavouring to check this spirit of liberality, by wantonly destroying the trees planted by his Lordship as ornaments to the road. But we sincerely hope that the reward which the parish officers of Wilton have offered, in addition to that of his Lordship, for the discovery of the offenders, will have the effect of stopping such depredations, and at the same time testify that the inhabitants of the town and parish are duly sensible of his Lordship's kindness, and that they are determined to assist in protecting his property.

We are sincerely concerned to learn that the fund for lowering Harnham Hill is so nearly exhausted that the Committee for employing the poor will be obliged, after the present week, to devote the small sum still remaining in their hands, to sloping off the sides, so as to leave it in a permanently passable condition. When it is considered that this great work has given employment to 120 men for upwards of two months, and has not yet cost £400, and that a continuation of the cut to an equal depth and of an equal length on the side nearest to our city, would go far to the removal of one of the greatest obstacles in that part of its prosperity which depends on easy travelling through the city, we cannot but regret that so small an additional sum as £500 should not be collected and appropriated to so useful a purpose.

**Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 14 April 1817**