



Great Flood

The inhabitants of this village were on Saturday afternoon last, at 4 o'clock, alarmed by discovering that the rapid thaw which had lasted all day had risen the waters to so dangerous an height that the meadows and valleys were completely inundated, and in an hour from this time, with such an amazing rapidity did they increase, that the water courses were filled to overflowing, and the flood spread fast on the surface, filling in its way cottage houses, barns, stables, and every building in its level. As quickly as the unlooked for occurrence would permit, horses were being rescued from farm yards and destruction, and all were saved but a few, the property of Mr Jacob Grant. Inmates of houses, (with portions of furniture) hastily quitted their ground floors for their bed chambers, and these unfortunate individuals were from 9 o'clock on Saturday evening gradually removing from their falling houses, which were giving way in all directions about them. In this shocking alternative, children were dragged naked from their beds, women and men with a mother and infant five weeks old, escaping for their lives, and scarcely able to withstand the strong current of water, which opposed their progress, or to escape crushing from the masses of buildings and mud walls on all sides falling; but through active exertions no lives were lost. The scene on Sunday morning, however, baffled all description: the village appeared to be reduced to a heap of ruins – 16 houses being totally or partially levelled, others continually giving way, with mud walls, stables, barns and buildings prostrated in every direction. By this sad catastrophe, a number of poor souls are rendered houseless, penniless, and all their little property buried in the ruins of their houses. Among the principal sufferers is a pig dealer named Poulton. This man laid out every farthing he possessed, in the erection of some cottages, which are all totally destroyed.

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Salisbury Plain

Saturday evening many villages on Salisbury Plain were visited with a sudden and alarming flood, occasioned by a rapid thaw, by rain, and by the frosted state of the ground over which the water passed, without much of it being able to penetrate the surface. At Shrewton thirty six houses had been washed away, and three lives lost, a man, a boy and a girl. At Wyllye, not many houses, but one life. At Stoke, about thirty houses. At Tilshead, seven houses. At Chitterne, two entirely, two partially. Lower down in the stream of the flood the consequences have probably been still more disastrous than those above

mentioned. The whole mass of waters bursting up stout bridges in its course, and receiving every mile large additions to its bulk, must have passed by Wilton and Salisbury, but the valleys are there broad, and therefore lives may not have been endangered. Few villages on the plain can have escaped altogether.

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