

SHOCKING SUICIDE AT PENALT

A most melancholy instance of self-destruction occurred at Penalt on the morning of Friday last, which created a sensation not only in that village, but in this town, the unfortunate victim being the Mr. **James Embry**, butcher, a very old inhabitant of Monmouth.

The whole facts in connection with the death will be found narrated in the evidence adduced at the inquest, which renders it unnecessary for us to detail them. On Monday last, an inquiry was held at Wheatsheaf, Penalt, before the deputy coroner, Mr. **dall Williamson, Esq.**, and a jury, of whom Mr. **Rosser**, of the Church Farm, was appointed. After the jury had viewed the body, which was lying in a room where the awful transaction occurred, they presented a shocking spectacle, they were adjourned to the coroner, who requested they would dismiss

Mary Embry, the widow of the deceased, posed—My husband resided in the parish between thirty and forty years, occupying the which I now live for the last fourteen years. married in 1811. He was a carpenter by t was as sane as other people when we were but for the last ten years or so, I have noticed in his manner, and considered his mind wa About ten years since he was at work at C Mr. Thomas Watkins, of Monmouth, and was a dog through the trousers and boot. He the week, however, without taking any notice on his return home the next Saturday night, the leg of his trousers, which was covered v He went to work at Camston again on the Monday morning. The farmer's wife then tol the dog which had bitten him was mad, at wh terrified out of his life, and the same day—after he had received the bite—he was dipped Passage. Ever since, whenever he had a droi

During the last five or six months he appea and, in consequence, I have been obliged watchful over him. He frequently exclaim bite of the dog had rendered him a lost man.

The Coroner—It is stated that he had one g ness as to thinking he was going to a bad he died. Is that so?

Witness—A hundred people might think th was always very religious, and used to read and was a very good husband. He never did to any one.

The Coroner—Did he never say to you that not go to heaven?

Witness—I never heard him say so. He saying religious prayers. There was not parish had such a head as he had for Scri could find out and speak upon any chapter. larly attended Church.

The Coroner—Did you observe anything p strange in his conduct on Thursday.

door shut as I had left it. When I entered the could not see him. Thinking he might be looking for a book, I went to the foot of the called him, but received no answer. I then opened the parlour door, and found him lying on his back with his throat dreadfully cut, and the blood flowing from each side of his neck from the wound. His neckerchief, coat, and waistcoat had been taken off and placed on a chair at his feet. An opened razor with blood on it, was on a chair near his right side. I produced. That is the razor. I did not see him himself that morning. He was in the habit of shaving himself about once a fortnight, and did so as usual previously to Friday last. When he shaved I was with him. When he was about to shave, he remarked—"I hope the Lord will have mercy that I may do it tidy;" and when he had finished he said "Thank the Lord I have done it tidy and comfortable." He was quite dead, and I did not think it an occasion to call a medical man. I called Hannah Watkins

work, during the last eighteen months. He was attended by any medical man, but was a patient of the Dispensary, whence he received some medicine, but was in a low way; but the doctor said it was not worth taking medicine—medicine would do him no good. He was so particularly religious, that I never had any objection he would do any harm, either to himself or to others. His brother at one time said he ought to be fined, but I would not allow him to be so, neither would I hear of it. I never spoke to the overseers about it. I never heard anything about his attempting to do himself.

Hannah Watkins, wife of Thomas Watkins deposed that she lived about 150 yards from the witness, and that she was called in and found the deceased in the position stated by her. Witness continued—I have known the deceased for the last 20 years. He was a good neighbour. For the last 18 months, I have observed a great difference in his conduct. I thought him deranged at times, but never con-

and that he felt it at times.

By the Foreman—I heard of his attempting himself.

To the Coroner—It was about two months told me he was tempted by the tempter to do went out to do so, but the Almighty had sp The overseers might have heard of it, but I do

Selina Hudson, wife of Joseph Hudson, stated - I have known the deceased from my and have been living in the next cottage to 100 yards distant, for the last two years. For six months, I noticed him to be very strange, especially during the last three, and considered deranged. I was in the habit of going to see day. About two or three months, I called in ing, and inquired how he was. He replied—'middling. I have been committing a very gr took a blood cord belonging to my son off the ran along the orchard with it, and through the the upper orchard. I took off my neckerchi

himself a very great sinner for doing such a t said the cow followed him into the upper orcha very loudly, but he was not five minutes goi felt so light on his feet. His son Henry went and met him coming back with the cord in The wife and sons of the deceased have treated Mrs. Embry was present when deceased told his attempting to hang himself.

Mrs. Embry was then recalled, and, in ans Coroner, said the reason why she allowed the t main in the clothes he had on at the time of was because it was all clean, and she did not li the corpse pulled about.

The Coroner explained to the Jury that b question to satisfy them of the absurdity o rumours which had been propagated

The Coroner (to Mrs. Embry)—You stated heard your husband say he had attempted himself. Do you remember being present w Selina Hudson that he did so in the orchard?

The Coroner then said if the Jury wished Giles called before them, he should be examined there did not appear to be any occasion for as scarcely any doubt could exist that the when discovered, was quite dead.—The learned man then proceeded to place before the Jury, in conciseness, the evidence which had been adduced in doing which he observed that it appeared the unfortunate deceased had been labouring under a violent and dangerous monomania, which of all species of mental derangement was the worst, for the victims of it generally fall a sacrifice, and should come to some untimely end. He then offered up prayers; and the remarks he made before and after shaving were extraordinary, and such as a sane man would utter, although his wife told him it was an ordinary matter because he was always thus

his being light on his feet, were additional proofs of the deranged state of his mind. As to the manner of taking off his clothing, it was patent that lunatics who wish to deprive themselves of life, were as well acquainted with the means they adopted for doing it effectually as a sane person could be. Very great doubts exist as to whether a person who was in his right mind would ever commit suicide,—indeed, the general opinion was that it was owing to the supposition that any sane individual would never give away with his life. If the Jury were satisfied that the poor man inflicted the wound upon himself, and died from the effects of such wound, the evidence was amply ample to enable them to arrive at such conclusion. Their next point would be to inquire in what state of mind he was at the time the act was committed, and having before attempted to destroy himself, and the strange conduct previously to his untimely death, were proofs that his mind was affected. So since, it appeared, he had been bitten by a

recovered him; although there was a great imagination, and he might have been benefited in time. He seemed to have been attended by a man, who, however, remarked that all the medicine in the world would be no good to him. Perhaps a little blame attached to the authorities of the county, though, perhaps, in the rural districts they do not attend so strictly to those matters as in towns. A man in a town, such as Monmouth, for instance, if attempted to destroy his life, and exhibited symptoms of derangement, it would have been necessary to call on the overseers, who, with the aid of the magistrate, and the certificate of a medical man, would have been able to send the individual to a lunatic asylum. The deceased and the other two witnesses stated that they did not consider the deceased dangerous to himself or anybody else; and the former said she wished to keep him at home because she considered it her duty, and she considered her children and herself could do so, and pay every attention to him. Still, it would have been preferable had he been placed under some

state of temporary insanity.

The Jury immediately returned a verdict in favour of the effect.

The Coroner—I still think it was a great pity that a poor man was not seen to by the overseers. If it had been the case, he might have been alive now.

A Juryman—He begged very hard of the authorities to be sent to the asylum. His brother James had been very good to him, wished him to go, and offered to cart to take him there, but he would not