

Cautionary Tales

Hide under the blankets

It is said that a ball of fire fell in the neighbourhood of Chipping in the room of a poor cottager, then in bed with his wife and child. It split one of the bed posts and deprived the child of speech for some time.

Blackburn Mail, 20 July 1796.

From an account of a thunderstorm in the region.

Keep away from fire

A curious case of burning happened to a lady named Miss Dewhurst, at Leagram Hall Farm, near Chipping, on Wednesday. She was engaged in kneading dough in front of the fire when her hair suddenly became ignited. She immediately threw an apron over her head and this took fire also. She raised an alarm, and her brother in law, Mr Marsden, succeeded in extinguishing the flames. She suffered terrible pain, and Dr Patchett, of Chipping, had to be called in.

Preston Guardian, Sat. 20 Feb 1897

Put tablets out of children's reach

Clara Brennand, 13 years of age, daughter of William Brennand, carrier, Chipping, had a very narrow escape from death on Sunday. She accidentally became possessed of some chlorodine lozenges, a number of which she ate. Drowsy tendencies soon manifested themselves, and she became seriously indisposed. By the advice of Dr Patchett she was kept in a state of exertion for several hours, during which the effects wore off.

Preston Guardian, Sat. 23 Apr 1892.

Don't run downhill

On Sunday four young men from Preston were having a stroll over Bleasdale fells. While coming down Fairsnape one of them commenced to run, and being unable to stop, he tripped and fell headlong for a considerable distance. His companions found him unconscious, and terribly cut and bruised about the head. They carried him some distance, and then went for assistance. He was brought down on a sledge to Mr R. Yates farm, Higher Fairsnape, who at once went for Dr Craven, of Chipping, who found him suffering from severe concussion of the brain. Except for short intervals he has remained unconscious ever since.

Lancaster Observer & Morecambe Chronicle,
Fri. 22 Mar 1901.

Get rid of incriminating evidence

William Kay, a blacksmith, at Chipping, was convicted at Whalley Sessions, and committed to the Preston House of Correction for three months for poaching. It was proved by one of the game-keepers of George Weld, Esq., of Leagram Hall, that Kay, and another man named Rothwell, were found by him and his companions [on December 23rd] in one of Mr Weld's plantations. Being seized, they were taken to the Hall, and searched, and upon Rothwell was found a flask of powder, which they knew belonged to Kay, and Kay when it was found, cursed his associate for being such a fool as not to drop it on the road.

From the Blackburn Alfred, 22 Jan 1834.

Don't bear a grudge

At Clitheroe Police Court on Tuesday, William Woods and William Henry Patchett were summoned for drunkenness and fighting in the Tillotsons public house, and also Ann Musgrave, landlady, for allowing drunkenness. P.C. Kirk said that at 9.55 on August 2nd he heard a disturbance in the bar of the hotel, and on going in he found the two men fighting. In his opinion both were drunk. He assisted the landlady's son to separate them, and eventually got them out of the house. The landlady told the constable that Woods had been there all evening and had been very quiet, and if Patchett had kept away there would have been no bother. There was, she believed, an old grudge between the men.

The men, in their defence, stated that they were not drunk but, as there had been an old grudge between them, they were more excited than anything else. Woods had only drunk one glass and Patchett had only just entered the house and had not had anything. A Mrs Walne and others were in the room, and Mrs Walne had sung for the edification of the company, "The Rose of Tralee". Woods joined in the chorus and Patchett told him to "shut up", and the pair began to quarrel.

Several witnesses said the men were not drunk, so the case was dismissed.

Preston Guardian, Sat. 29 Aug 1896.

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