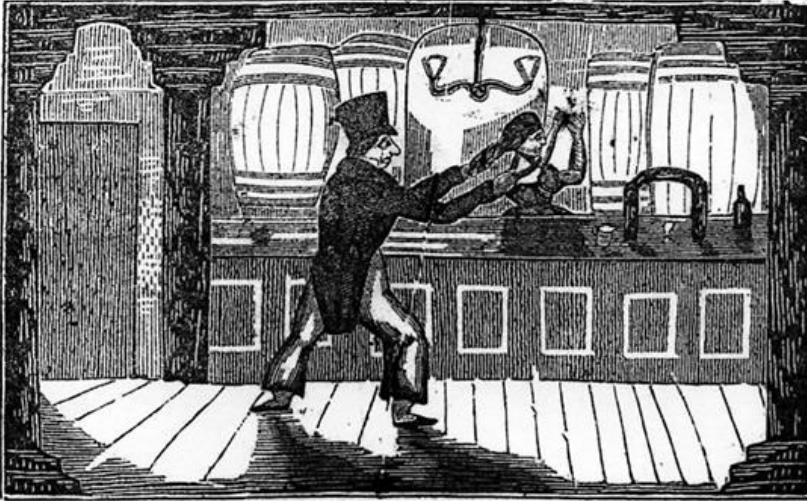


APPREHENSION OF A PERSON FOR THE
Horrid Murder
 OF THE BAR-MAID

Of the King's Arms wine-vaults, Brooke-street, Frederick-street
 Hampstead Road.

May 9. 1837



At an early hour on Tuesday morning the neighbourhood of Frederick-street, Regent's Park, was thrown into the greatest state of excitation and alarm, in consequence of Hannah Davis, a fine young woman, 21 years of age, bar-maid in the service of Mr. Wadley, the proprietor of the King's Arms, wine-vaults, situate at the corner of Laxton-place, in the above street, having been found with her throat cut in a dreadful manner, and under circumstances which prove, beyond doubt, that she must have been murdered by some sanguinary villain.

It appears that the unfortunate victim had lived about six months with the present landlord but had held the same situation under the former proprietor, Mr. Bury, for a period of seven or eight years. She was a native of Wales, and was much esteemed for steadiness and attention to business, as well as for her civility to persons frequenting the house. It was customary for her to rise early, & on the morning in question she rose about six o'clock, & having procured the keys from her master, she went downstairs and proceeded to unlock the place before any one else in the house was stirring. About twenty minutes afterwards a man named Hall, residing in the same street, passed by, and seeing the door open, went in, for the purpose of procuring a glass of beer. He called out, but could make nobody hear; he then looked over the counter, and was horrified at perceiving the floor of the bar deluged with blood. He ran to the staircase, and gave an alarm, and in a few seconds the pot-boy, Jones, came running down half-dressed, and in his progress he stumbled over the body of the deceased, which was lying on a mat on the landing at the head of the first flight. He immediately called his master, who sent for medical assistance, when the body was examined and a frightful gash discovered on the right side of her throat, which had completely severed the wind-pipe and all the arteries, so that life must have been soon extinct. The counter was found sprinkled with blood, which was traced along the bar floor through the parlour, and up the stairs to the place where the hapless victim sank to rise no more.

Attention was next directed to the door leading into the street, where the bloody print of a man's fingers was distinctly seen on it, but no blood could be traced along the floor. A bloody table-knife was found near the spot, with which the deed was no doubt perpetrated, and it is the opinion of the medical men, that the unfortunate young woman had been suddenly seized by the murderer while her back was turned on him behind the counter, and that while in this situation he forcibly drew her head towards him and committed the horrid deed, after which he hastily withdrew and made his escape. The object which the ruffian had in view does not appear, as she had no sweetheart or follower, and the motive could not have been plunder, as a quantity of money and property remained in the bar untouched. Up to a late hour on Tuesday night, the crowd who visited this scene of horror was immense, so that it was requisite to have policemen on the spot.

A French modeller, named Entre, who was in the habit of using the house, is strongly suspected, as he was heard to say on Saturday last that he would do for the deceased, because she refused to trust him with some liquors. This man is no where to be found, but the police are in search of him.

It was at first supposed by some (and it is still barely possible) that the unfortunate young woman might have committed the deed with her own hand, with the view of self-destruction, but this conjecture does not coincide with her previous behaviour, as she was remarkably cheerful the day before, without the least appearance of aberration of mind, and on searching her trunk an unfinished letter has been found, addressed to her mother, in Wales, of which place the deceased was a native, setting forth that she was extremely comfortable and well satisfied with the situation she had held for so many years, with credit to herself and satisfaction to her employers.

An Inquest was held on Thursday at the above public-house before Mr. Stirling, when evidence was given the same as the particulars stated, and the Jury returned a Verdict of "Wilful Murder against some person unknown."

It is strongly rumoured in the neighbourhood, that the murderer had travelled on foot into Devonshire, when becoming penniless and exhausted, he gave himself up to justice, and will immediately be brought to London.