

Brutal attacks on Police Officers

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Murderous attack on a County Police officer By burglars

During the winter months the residents of the suburbs of Liverpool have been kept in a state of alarm in consequence of numerous burglaries which have been committed in their midst. It would seem that these districts have been infested with a gang of scoundrels who have entered houses and carried away a quantity of plunder. The burglaries committed by them were from time to time reported to the police, but the robberies were planned with such skill and carried out with so much caution that the thieves generally escaped detection. In most of the localities on the outskirts of Liverpool there are very few of the county constabulary on duty. This fact the thieves seem to have been acquainted with, and there is no doubt that many of the robberies have been committed at places where policemen, from the extent of their beats, would not often visit. The county officers in these lonely parts have sometimes dangerous duties to perform. They have frequent contests with poachers and other rough characters, and in some instances have been brutally treated. These lawless affairs have suggested the necessity of increasing the county police force in the localities in question, and representations to that effect have been made to the head constable.

Early yesterday morning a murderous attack was made upon a county constable by burglars who were interrupted by the officer as they were endeavouring to enter a gentleman's residence at Knotty Ash, near this town.

It appears on Wednesday night police-constable No 797, Robert JOLLY, a county officer, left the Old Swan police station to go on duty in the

neighbourhood of Pilch Lane, about 2 miles from Old Swan, and near Knotty Ash. Whilst proceeding towards his beat, he observed three rough-looking men loitering about the neighbourhood of Knotty Ash and he at once went to Knotty Ash police station and reported the circumstances to the sergeant who was on duty there. The latter instructed him to keep a good look out, and during the night to go round another beat as well as his own. The officer, who had not been more than a month on this duty, however, could not find his way to the other beat and, unfortunately for himself returned to his own. About 12.30 to 1am he was passing the private residence of Mr Henry DUCKWORTH, which is situated on the corner of Pilch Lane and Grant Rd, when he saw a man in the garden at the front of the house. This man appeared to be keeping watch, and the officer opened the gate and entered. He accosted the intruder, asking him what he was doing there, when the man replied in an impertinent style, "What the ----- are you doing here? I have as much right here as you." The constable was about to seize this suspicious visitor, when the latter whistled, and two other men rushed from the direction of the parlour window of the house, and they all instantly made a most brutal and murderous attack upon JOLLY.

They first felled him to the ground, and then, leaning over him, commenced beating him about the head and kicking him about the body. He offered every resistance in his power, and grappled with one of the ruffians, but three powerful fellows proved too much for him. They tore his cape from off his back, and his overcoat was ripped up and taken off him. His staff was wrestled from him, and with this his assailants managed to inflict some severe injuries upon the prostrate constable. In raising his arm to protect his head he received a blow with the deadly weapon which rendered the limb useless. One of the burglars had been rummaging the pockets of the constable's coat, and had succeeded in finding the handcuffs which were slipped upon the wrists of JOLLY, and locked with dexterity which showed that these ruffians were not altogether unacquainted with the mechanism of

the "darbles" Having secured the poor fellows limbs, and rendered him quite incapable of making further resistance, they rifled his pockets, taking his purse containing 15s, his whistle, knife, and other small articles from him. One of the ruffians had been holding him by the neck all the time, and with the pressure on his windpipe the blood spurted from his mouth and nose.

After they had cleared his pockets the officer saw the men leave the garden, and tried to raise an alarm, but his strength gave way and he became insensible. He did not recover until about 2am, when he found he had been divested of all his clothing except his shirt, trousers, and undercoat. He was securely handcuffed, and it was with considerable difficulty that he managed to rise to his feet. The spot is very lonely, and knowing that it was useless to attempt to raise an alarm he made the best of his way to Knotty Ash, police station, which he reached half an hour afterwards. The blood was streaming from his mouth, nose and head, and he was covered with mud. Police-constable ROBINSON, No 76, who occupied the station, at once gave every attention to his brother officer, and after putting him to bed an officer was despatched for medical aid, and another went to Mr DUCKWORTH'S house, where he found the officer's clothing torn to shreds. His whistle, knife, and hat were strewn about the garden, and his staff was found in a field opposite the house. The thieves had not left the money behind them, but had left the empty purse. On examining the parlour window of the house it was found that an attempt had been made to enter the apartment. The garden vases had been drawn up to the windowsill, upon which was found a jemmy.

Dr FITZPATRICK of the Old Swan, attended the injured constable, and found him in a very exhausted state. His left arm was much swollen and the doctor believed his collar bone had been fractured. From inquiries made last night, the injured man has been confined to his bed during the whole of the

day, and has suffered considerably from a pain in his side caused by some injury to the kidneys. His arm is yet entirely useless, and he is otherwise disabled.

No trace of the burglars has yet been obtained, and JOLLY is afraid he would not be able to identify them as it was very dark at the time, there being no lamp at the house.

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Police-constable No 797, Robert Henry JOLLY, a county officer on Thursday lay in a very exhausted state, and suffered great pain. Yesterday he had slightly improved, and last night he was progressing as favourably as can be expected under the circumstances, the ruffians who committed this cowardly assault have not yet been apprehended.