

Liverpool Mercury, Dec 28th, 1888

Brutal outrage on a Liverpool Police Inspector

The north end of Liverpool maintains its notoriety for ruffians of the worst type and the frequency of outrages upon members of the police force shows that there lurks in the savage breast of the lawless classes in that locality a bitter antipathy towards the officers of the law. The latest victim of the lawlessness which is associated with the gang known as the "High Rippers" is Inspector NESBITT, who has charge of the fire police at the Athol St, Station, and who is one of the most respected members of the force.

About midnight on Wednesday he was returning home from one of the north docks, where he had been to inspect some cotton that had been burnt at sea, to the Athol St, Station. Whilst walking leisurely along Boundary St, a thoroughfare having high warehouses on each side and little frequented at night, he was surprised by half a dozen men rushing at him from a dark corner. One of them tripped him and he fell to the ground. Before he could get to his feet he was savagely kicked upon the head. He struggled with his assailants for some minutes until overcome by the savage blows dealt at his head, he fell insensible to the ground. He was several minutes before he regained consciousness, and then he was too weak to rise to his feet. He crawled on all fours to a warehouse step, and there he rested for about half an hour, when he had regained sufficient strength to walk to Athol St, a few hundred yards distant. His face, arms and legs were frightfully discoloured, bearing evidence of the brutal treatment he had received. Yesterday he was confined to bed in a weak condition, and it is feared he will be unfit for duty for several days.

At an early hour yesterday morning PC 119, COWHILL, was on duty in North John St, when he noticed a man entering a dark passage. He suspected the

man was about to commit a felony and followed him. The fellow who was powerfully built set upon the officer, seized his whistle, and kicked him savagely. Assistance came to hand and the ruffian was overpowered and locked up. The constable was taken to the Northern Hospital where his wounds were dressed.