

William Stanley Harkness

Isle of Wight Observer - Saturday 13 May 1865

NEWPORT

SUDDEN DEATH.—On Tuesday an inquest was held at the residence of Mr. Richard Aldridge, builder, a neighbour of deceased, before W. W. Buckell, esq., deputy coroner, on the body of William Stanley Harkness, of Chapel-street, school master of the Royal British School, Upper St. James's-street, who died suddenly on the previous afternoon. The evidence of Catherine Harkness, wife of deceased, went to show that her husband came home from the school about a quarter past 4 o'clock. Soon after he came in he said he thought he had better take some cod-liver oil, which he had been in the habit of doing, and she gave him some. He then sat down, painting a likeness he was about, and in a minute or two after he came to the kitchen, where she was, and said he was going to faint. She followed him to the back room where he fell down, and she sent for a neighbour and for Dr. Dabbs, but he was dead before the doctor arrived. In answer to questions by a juror, she added that her little boy had slightly damaged the painting his father was about in his absence, and told his father of it on his coming home, to which he replied, "Never mind, I can soon mend that." He did not appear put out about it. A boy was punished at the school that afternoon, and deceased brought him home with him, that he should not run away. He did not seem excited. He told her to shut him up until he behaved better, and when he began painting to go and speak to him and let him go, which she did. Deceased's health was delicate, and he had been subject to fainting for the last 12 years. —Dr. George Henry Dabbs said deceased died of apoplexy from a diseased heart, and his opinion was confirmed by the statement of Mrs. Harkness. —The Coroner having summed up the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "Died from Natural Causes."

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