

John Christmas Lovett

Isle of Wight Observer - 16 November 1861

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT. — On Wednesday morning as Mr. John Lovett, of Reading, was engaged on a ladder removing the mourning-hangings, placed around the Catholic Church as marks of respect to the late Miss Elliott, the ladder broke, and he was precipitated on the stone floor, pitching on his head. He was taken up insensible, and immediately conveyed to the Infirmary. But little hope was entertained of his surviving; for although the scalp was only bruised, and not broken, blood continued to flow from his mouth and nose, evidencing that some violent internal injury had been received. These anticipations proved but true, for the unfortunate gentleman expired at half-past seven in the evening of that day.

Isle of Wight Observer - 23 November 1861

INQUEST. — An inquest on the body of Mr. J. Lovett, of Reading, and formerly of Dorset-street, Portman-square, London, who came to Ryde to superintend the funeral of the late Miss Elliot, and who came by his death by the melancholy accident recorded in our last, was held at the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary on Friday last, at 1 o'clock, before Frederick Blake, esq., coroner for the Isle of Wight. The coroner and jury went and viewed the spot where the fatal accident occurred, and the ladder on which the deceased had been standing, and which was broken in the fall. They also viewed the body of the deceased at the Infirmary; and the following evidence was taken:— John Joseph Bailey, butler to the late Miss Elliot, deposed that he had known the deceased for 30 years, and that for some years he had carried on a large business in London, but had lately retired and been living at Reading, and that he came to Ryde for the purpose of superintending the funeral. — Alfred Riley deposed that he was in the church at the time the accident happened, and had been assisting. He was near the rails of the chapel in the south aisle, when deceased was on the ladder inside. At the time deceased was taking down the black cloth hangings between the pillars. He could not exactly tell how the foot of the ladder was placed; but he saw him fall, and immediately called the priest's housekeeper.— Winelride Nolan, housekeeper to the Rev. J. Telford, deposed that when the lad came to her she went immediately and saw the deceased insensible on the floor, and blood was running from his mouth. She then procured further assistance, and sent for medical aid. - George H. Case, esq., house-surgeon at the Infirmary, deposed that he was called to the Catholic Church on Wednesday morning, and found the deceased quite insensible. He was removed to the Infirmary, where he died at 8 o'clock the same evening. His death was caused through a severe fracture in the skull. - The jury then returned a verdict of "Accidental death, caused through falling from a ladder and fracturing his skull." - The funeral of this lamented gentleman took place on Sunday last. The mournful procession left Ryde about 1 o'clock, and the body was interred in the portion of ground allotted for Catholics in the cemetery at Carisbrooke. The deceased was 65 years of age.

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