

Pugilism

On Monday last a long and hard contested battle was fought on Langford Down by James Lacock, gamekeeper to H. Biggs, Esq. of Stockton, and James Goodfellow, a carter, of Codford. Arrangements for the fight had been for some time previously made, and a numerous concourse of persons was attracted to see it. A roped ring being formed, the men stripped; Lacock was seconded by a man named Fletcher, and Goodfellow had for his second the celebrated Bill Neat, of Bristol. The combatants were in excellent health; Goodfellow weighed about 11½ stone, and Lacock was about 1 stone heavier, and evidently the stronger man of the two. The fight which consisted of 61 rounds, lasted rather more than an hour, terminating in favour of Goodfellow, who completely blinded his adversary. It would be needless to describe the rounds, as it was throughout a manly give and take fight, in which but little science was shewn by either party. Lacock fought principally at his adversary's body, while the latter directed almost all his blows at Lacock's head, and gained the battle by that system of fighting, as he eventually closed up both of Lacock's eyes. Had Goodfellow not accomplished this object, Lacock's superior strength and weight must have gained him the victory. Two braver men never fought. The battle was for 20 sovereigns.

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