



CORONERS INQUESTS



Whaddon

Elizabeth Davis

Suicide of a girl - Verdict of *Felo-de-se*

The coroner, Mr. George Sylvester, held an inquest on Friday, at Whaddon, on the body of Elizabeth Davis, aged 19, daughter of poor parents. The girl had been in the habit of visiting Trowbridge, where she had picked up with some loose company of her own sex. On Wednesday evening, she came to Trowbridge to see the volunteers return from Salisbury, and she stopped about till late. Her mother came to seek her, and accompanied her and some of her companions to a public house, where they stayed drinking so long that they did not get home till midnight. Some angry words took place between the mother and daughter on the way home, and when they got indoors they both took off their boots and prepared to go to bed. The daughter, however, instead of going upstairs, opened the door and went out. Not finding her return soon, the mother went out to look for her, and saw her standing on the brink of the river Avon. Suspecting her intentions, she ran towards her, but before she could reach her the girl had jumped in. The mother ran back into the village screaming and aroused some labourers, but before they could arrive the girl had disappeared. The body was not discovered for an hour afterwards. The jury returned a verdict of *felo-de-se*, and the body was buried at night without funeral rites.

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