

James Woolger, Police Constable 103V

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“The inhabitants of Westminster experienced more damage to their premises from the gale of yesterday morning than they have been subject to for many years. In Orchard-street, Pye-street, and several other streets in the vicinity, the upper parts of several of the houses came down, and it is most fortunate that very few accidents have occurred. James Woolger, police constable, 103 V. while standing in the yard of the Queen-square police-office, was struck on the foot by a chimney pot which had fallen from the roof of the office. Had he been an inch more forward he must have been killed: as it was he was, very severely bruised. A very large stack of chimnies at the Storey’s-gate coffee house, St. James’s-park, was precipitated into Prince’s-street. The rubbish so completely obstructed the carriage way that no vehicle could pass. Upwards of 10 yards of lead were torn from the Wellington Barracks, and at St. Margaret’s workhouse, a wall which has lately been erected gave way. Mr. Elliott, the master of the workhouse, having observed the wall to be falling, gave immediate directions to a number of boys who were playing under it to leave the spot, and in a few moments afterwards it fell with a tremendous crash. Nearly 500lb. weight of lead was torn away from the Jerusalem Chambers, a part of Westminster Abbey, and large masses of stone fell from the Abbey itself, and also from St. Margaret’s Church. Upon enquiry at the Westminster Hospital, it appears that the only case brought there was that of a boy who was literally blown off his feet in St. Margaret’s Churchyard, but Dr. Guthrie, after examining him, said, that although he was severely bruised, no bones had been broken, and he was taken home. From the manner in which the old towers of the Abbey rocked, it was greatly feared they would fall, and a crowd of spectators collected in expectation of such an event”

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