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“WANDSWORTH. – Yesterday, William Cooley, a labourer was brought up on remand, charged with having so violently assaulted his wife as to endanger her life.

The prisoner was first brought to this court on Monday the 30th ult., and on that occasion police constable Strathfield, 114, proved that he apprehended the prisoner for being drunk and riotous in Church-street, Wimbledon, late on the Saturday night; but in consequence of information he subsequently received, he also charged him with violently assaulting his wife, and produced the following medical certificate to show that the nature of the injuries was so severe as to preclude her attendance at present.

"I certify that Sophia Cooley is confined to her bed. Her illness in my opinion is caused by the ill-treatment of her husband on Saturday night, last.

Edward Funnell

Wimbledon, Aug 30"

Mr. Beadon, upon this certificate, remanded the prisoner for a week.

Yesterday, the wife of the prisoner, a decent and evidently hard-working woman, was placed in the witness box to give evidence. It was quite evident to all that she desired to shield her husband, and the following facts were with difficulty elicited from her. She stated that on Saturday night week, about 10 o'clock, the prisoner came home drunk – that he walked out of the front room into the back, muttering some threat, and that he returned and struck her a violent blow in the side with his closed fist. She dropped senseless on the floor, and had been ill ever since. He has repeatedly ill-used her and threatened her life, and had said he would not mind being hanged for her.

Anne Showler, a next door neighbour, and John Woolgar, the Wimbledon beadle, proved that the prisoner was a violent, dissipated character, and was in the constant habit of ill-using his wife, who worked night and day to maintain her family. The prisoner, although he earned good wages, scarcely contributed towards his wife's and children's support. Witness also said, that whilst the poor woman lay senseless on the floor, the prisoner said it was a b___y good job if he had killed her; that he meant to finish her, and be hung for her.

The prisoner, who aggravated his case by charging his wife with incontinence, was, after some well merited remarks from the magistrate, ordered to pay a fine of 5l [£5] or be imprisoned one month; and Mr. Beadon directed that at the expiration of the term of imprisonment, the prisoner should find two sureties in 20l [£20] each, to keep the peace for 12 months".

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