

An account of a case of recovery [of Thomas Tipple], after an extraordinary accident : by which the shaft of a chaise had been forced through the thorax / [William Maiden].

Contributors

Maiden, William, 1766-1845.

Publication/Creation

London : T. Bayley, sold by Gale, Curtis & Fenner, etc., 1813.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/us9hkwx>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.

**wellcome
collection**

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

AN
ACCOUNT
OF A
CASE OF RECOVERY,

AFTER AN

Extraordinary Accident,

BY WHICH

THE SHAFT OF A CHAISE HAD BEEN FORCED
THROUGH THE THORAX.

BY WILLIAM MAIDEN,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, IN LONDON.

SECOND EDITION.

PRINTED BY T. BAYLEY, DEOVNSHIRE STREET, BISHOPSGATE.

Sold by

GALE, CURTIS, AND FENNER, PATERNOSTER ROW; CALLOW, CROWN COURT, SOHO;
COX, ST. THOMAS'S STREET, BOROUGH; AND AT MRS. JAMES'S, LIBRARY,
STRATFORD.

1813.

ACCOUNT
OF A
CASE OF RECOVERY.

AFTER AN
Extraordinary Accident,
IN WHICH
THE SHAFT OF A CHAIR HAD BEEN FORCED
THROUGH THE THORAX.



BY WILLIAM W. WELLS,
MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

SECOND EDITION.

PRINTED BY T. BAYLEY, BROWN'S STREET, BISHOPSGATE.
Solely by
GALT, CURTIS, AND YEKER, PATENTERS AND PRINTERS, COURT AND
COX, ST. THOMAS'S STREET, BISHOPSGATE, AND AT NEWBURY'S LIBRARY,
STATIONERS.

1813.

TO SIR WILLIAM BLIZARD, F. R. S. &c.

Dear Sir,

UNDER the sanction of your established reputation, and your undoubted veracity, I presume to publish one of the most extraordinary Cases that have occurred in Surgery: and I feel much pleasure in the opportunity of expressing to you, my grateful acknowledgements for the assistance which I have received from your able and friendly advice throughout the treatment of this accident, and upon many other important occasions.

I am,

Dear Sir,

With the most sincere regard,

Your obliged Friend

And obedient Servant,

WM. MAIDEN.

STRATFORD, ESSEX,

Sept. 24, 1812.

To Sir WILLIAM BLIZARD, F.R.S. &c.

Dear Sir,

Under the sanction of your established reputation, and your undoubted capacity, I presume to publish one of the most extraordinary Cases that have occurred in Surgery; and I feel much pleasure in the opportunity of expressing to you, my grateful acknowledgments for the assistance which I have received from your able and friendly advice throughout the treatment of this accident; and upon many other important occasions.

Dear Sir,

With the most sincere regards,

Your obliged Friend

WM. MAIDEN

STRATFORD, ESSEX.
Sept. 24, 1812.

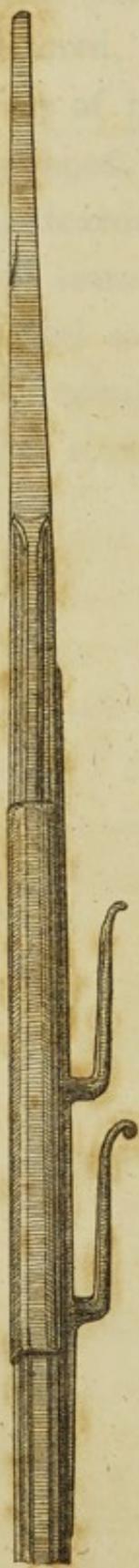
INTRODUCTION.

ALTHOUGH the testimony of Sir WILLIAM BLIZARD, relating to the chirurgical facts in the following pages, would have been sufficient; yet, as the circumstances of the accident, which led to his attendance, have been considered, by many persons, incredible, the Writer has great satisfaction in being able to state, that many persons, of the first respectability, have examined Mr. TIPPLE, have seen the shaft by which he was wounded, the chaise-house, &c. and can certify to the truth of this Account of his Case; among whom are Anatomists, Physicians, and Surgeons, of the greatest eminence.

Mr. TIPPLE's own narrative, will be supported by the testimonies of Mr. EDWARD and Mr. HENRY LAWRENCE; verified on oath before five most respectable Magistrates, who themselves minutely investigated the particulars of the accident.

In the Statement which follows, the strictest attention has been observed, not to insert any thing except upon the most satisfactory evidence.

Such an accident as this under consideration, never, perhaps, before occurred, and probably will not happen again; yet the History of it may prove useful. Surgeons may hence be encouraged, not in any case to despair. Continued zealous endeavours, even under hopeless circumstances, they will learn, may possibly prove successful; may probably afford some remark contributory to the improvement of chirurgical knowledge; and certainly never can be hurtful to science or mankind.



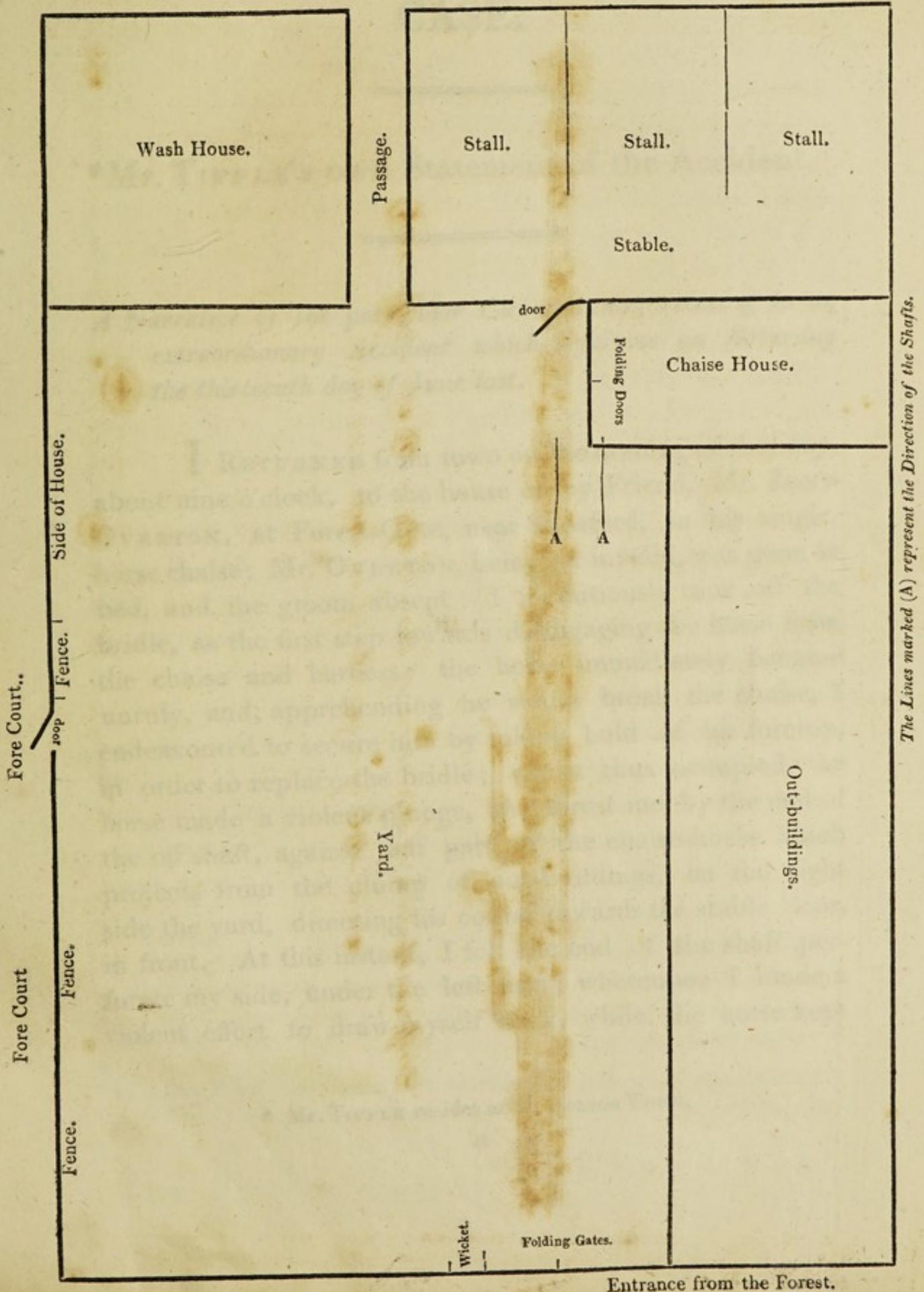
*Representation of a portion of the Shaft, with the Tug-irons,
on a scale of a quarter of an inch to an inch.*

GROUND PLAN

OF

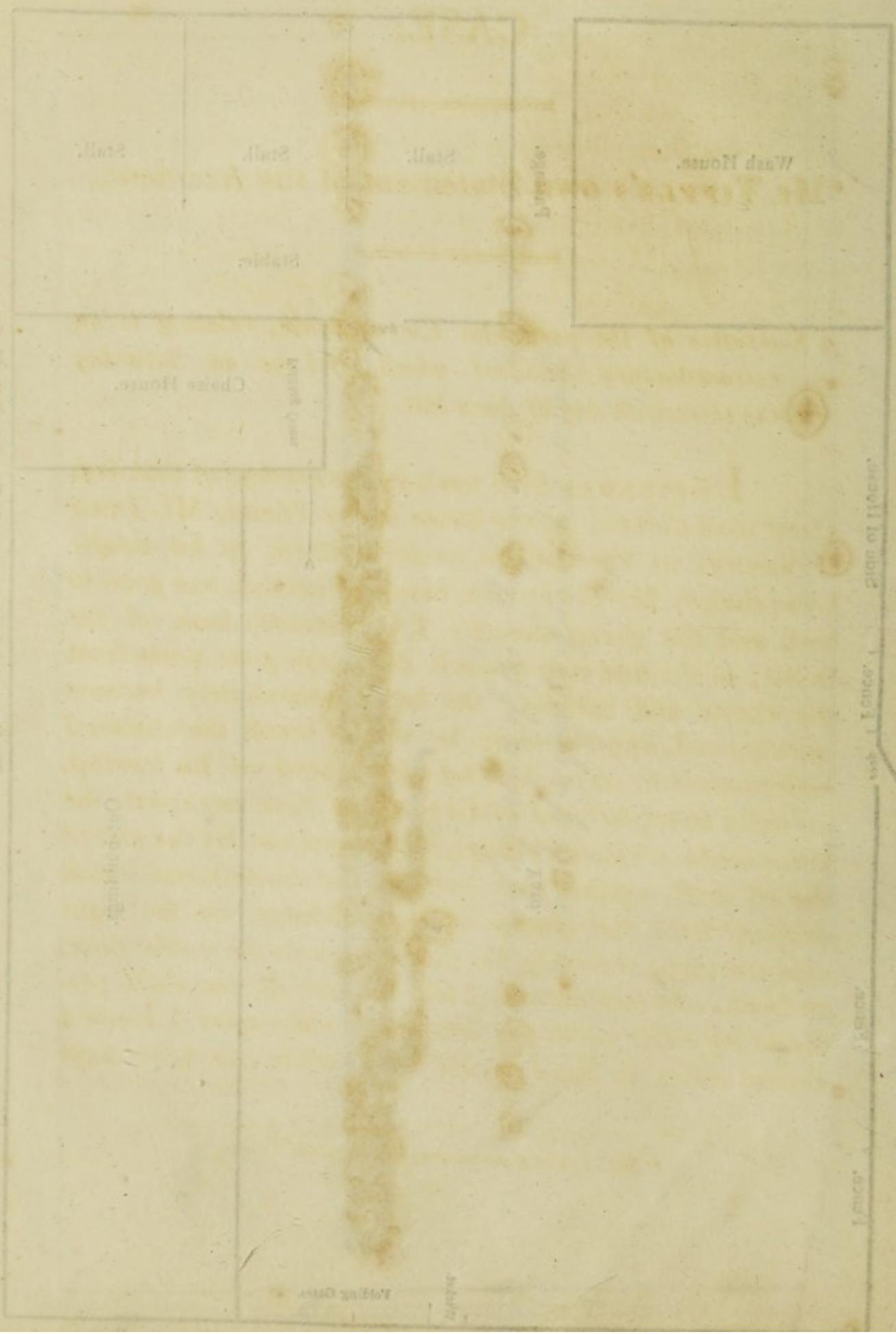
Mr. Overton's Stable Yard and Out-buildings.

Measurement the eighth of an inch for a foot.



Mr. Overton's Stable Yard and Out-buildings.

Measurement the right of an inch for a foot.



Vertical text on the left side of the plan, possibly a scale or reference note.

Scale of House

Lois Cont.

Lois Cont.

Fence

Vertical text at the bottom of the plan, possibly a scale or reference note.

CASE.

***MR. TIPPLE'S** own Statement of the Accident.

A Narrative of the particular Circumstance, relating to an extraordinary Accident which befel me on Saturday the thirteenth day of June last.

I RETURNED from town on the evening of that day, about nine o'clock, to the house of my Friend, Mr. JOHN OVERTON, at Forest-Gate, near Stratford, in his single-horse chaise; Mr. OVERTON, being an invalid, was gone to bed, and the groom absent; I incautiously took off the bridle, as the first step towards disengaging the horse from the chaise and harness; the horse immediately became unruly, and, apprehending he would break the chaise, I endeavoured to secure him by taking hold of his foretop, in order to replace the bridle; whilst thus occupied, the horse made a violent plunge, and thrust me, by the end of the off shaft, against that part of the chaise-house which projects from the clump of out-buildings, on the right side the yard, directing his course towards the stable door, in front. At this instant, I felt the end of the shaft perforate my side, under the left arm; whereupon I made a violent effort to draw myself back, while the horse kept

* Mr. TIPPLE resides at 31, Hoxton Town.

plunging forward, and I soon felt the end of the shaft pass from under my right arm, occasioning acute pain. Alarmed at my perilous situation, I cried aloud for assistance, and the horse continuing to press forward, occasioned further violence, on the left side, producing, as it afterwards appeared, a second wound, inflicted by the front tug-hook under the shaft. At this time, Mr. LAWRENCE and his two Sons* were passing, and hearing the out-cry, ran into the yard; they quickly put the horse back, and rendered me every assistance in their power. At this awful period, the end of the shaft was presented to my view, which had been forced through the boarding of the chaise-house, and projected several inches beyond my right side. Previously to withdrawing the shaft, by which I was empaled, I placed my hand on the projecting part, to draw myself off, in which I was assisted by Mr. HENRY LAWRENCE: so soon as I was released, I respired with some force, two or three times, and found no alteration in my breathing, and no part of my body appeared under the slightest agitation. I then went into the house, pulled off my waistcoat†, and looking at the wounds, wished to have seen them bleed more freely: after that, I walked up stairs with a steady step, and when arrived at the first floor, Mrs. OVERTON requested me to stop; but recollecting, that the room I slept in before, on the second floor,

* It was a most fortunate occurrence for Mr. TIPPLE, that the Messrs. LAWRENCEs, who are respectable Farriers, should be passing; as few persons could have been so competent to the management of the horse in such an unruly state.

† Before attempting to unharness the horse, &c. Mr. TIPPLE had taken off his coat.

looked towards the east, I proceed to it, as being more airy, and free from the annoyance of the afternoon sun. On entering the room, I seated myself on a chair, and Mr. HENRY LAWRENCE offering to undress me, I consented, as I conceived any exertion liable to promote the inward bleeding I expected would ensue. When I was nearly undressed; for the first time I felt a faintness come over me, and immediately after, the blood trickling on my lungs, attended with extreme difficulty of breathing. I then got into bed, where I continued, in a sitting posture, till Mr. MAIDEN arrived, who in a few minutes took a considerable quantity of blood from my right arm, which very soon relieved the dreadful pressure I had experienced in my breathing.

I have no doubt, that my endeavours to recede, when the shaft was entering my left side, gave the end its direction towards my breast, by which it was inwardly bruised; and caused such an uneasy sensation, for several days, that I was apprehensive the bone was broken, and in fact, at this time, it remains sore.

I have at times, within the last three or four days, been conscious of a sensation, near the breast bone, but more particularly on the left side, which, when I breathe, gives me the idea of confinement throabouts, like the grasping of an hand.

I further recollect, that after I was extricated from the shaft of the chaise, I told Mr. HENRY LAWRENCE, I hoped my vitals had escaped uninjured.

THOMAS TIPPLE.

FOREST-GATE, *July 12th*, 1812.

ESSEX.—The foregoing Narrative was subscribed and verified, upon the oath of the above-mentioned THOMAS TIPPLE, before Us, the undersigned Justices of the Peace, acting in and for the County of Essex, this 18th day of July, 1812.

Wm. Manbey, Wm. Dyer, John M. Henniker,
Wm. Tolbut, Robert Wilson.

The following Questions were propounded to Mr. TIPPLE, by Us, with the several Answers he made thereto, subsequently to his being sworn, 18th July, 1812.

Q. At the time of the accident, can you recollect to have felt any pain in your back ?

A. Certainly not.

Q. Have you at any time during the confinement from this Accident, felt any pain or soreness in your back ?

A. Not any.

Q. Have you since the accident found any difficulty in moving your arms ?

A. A trifling stiffness across the breast, since the wounds have been in a healing state.

Wm. Manbey, Wm. Dyer, John M. Henniker,
Wm. Tolbut, Robert Wilson.

The Relation of Mr. EDWARD LAWRENCE,
and Mr. HENRY LAWRENCE,

Of a most dreadful Scene, which they beheld on Saturday evening, the thirteenth of June last.

Mr. EDWARD LAWRENCE says, I was passing Mr. OVERTON'S house, about nine o'clock, when I heard a crying out, and Mr. OVERTON calling for my Assistance, from his bed-room window: I went into the yard, and found Mr. TIPPLE standing by the side of the horse, which was then in the shafts of the chaise, without a bridle. Mr. TIPPLE appeared to me, to be confined in some way by the shaft, but in what manner, I could not then discover, but I conjectured it must have been, by the shaft passing through the front of his cloaths; I immediately twitched the horse by the ear and nose, and put him back, for the purpose of extricating Mr. TIPPLE; in so doing I discovered that the end of the shaft, which had confined Mr. TIPPLE, had also entered the weather-boarding of the chaise-house, and passed through it. At this period, my brother HENRY LAWRENCE came to us, we then discovered to our great astonishment, that Mr. TIPPLE was pierced through the body, by the shaft of the chaise, and apparently standing on tip-toe, with both arms extended.

Mr. HENRY LAWRENCE says, I was not present at first, but soon came up; I discovered that the shaft had passed through the body of Mr. TIPPLE, and was still remaining

in it, and the end projecting several inches beyond the trunk of the body; and upon making an effort to release Mr. TIPPLe, he cried, Oh! which induced me to desist; and upon inspecting more minutely, it appeared that he was also in some degree suspended by the shaft; I then repeated my effort, and endeavoured to lift, and, at the same time, gently to push him from me; in this I succeeded. So soon as Mr. TIPPLe was extricated, he walked into Mr. OVERTON'S house, and proceeded up two pair of stairs, to one of the chambers; I followed him closely, and assisted in undressing and putting him to bed.

During the time I was with him he observed to me, that he thought, notwithstanding it was a most dreadful accident, his vitals had escaped uninjured.

EDWARD LAWRENCE, } Forest Gate, West Ham,
HENRY LAWRENCE, } Essex.

Verified, by the above-mentioned EDWARD LAWRENCE and HENRY LAWRENCE, upon oath before Us, the undersigned Justices of the Peace, acting in and for the county of Essex, the 18th day of July, 1812.

Wm. Manbey, Wm. Dyer, John M. Henniker,
Wm. Tolbut, Robert Wilson,

LETTER,

*Relating to the Account of the Case of Mr. TIPPLE, from
SIR WILLIAM BLIZARD to Mr. MAIDEN.*

SIR,

I HAVE considered your Narrative of the Case of
Mr. TIPPLE.

The Occurrences in it, which happened within my
observation, are accurately stated; and I am convinced
that every part of the account is correct.

The Recovery of Mr. TIPPLE from the imminent danger
of his situation may be ascribed, principally, to your con-
duct when first called to his assistance.

The positive benefit from the copious bleeding you have
clearly expressed; but your judicious forbearance of the
use of a finger or a probe, for the purpose of ascertaining
the course of the shaft, is entitled to particular notice.

Many lives have been sacrificed to the gratification of
curiosity by researches into the direction and extent of
wounds in the body.

I am, &c.

WILLIAM BLIZARD.

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE,
25th August, 1812.

LETTER

AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
TREATMENT OF THE CASE.

ON Saturday the thirteenth day of June last, about nine in the evening, I was sent for, in great haste, to a Gentleman who was said to have been pierced through the body by the shaft of a chaise: Alarmed at the account I heard from the Servant who came for me, I mounted the horse he rode, and went off immediately with the utmost speed; and, as I was afterwards informed, arrived at Mr. OVERTON'S house, near Forest-Gate, in ten minutes after the accident.

Being told that the shaft had perforated the Gentleman's chest, the first question I asked was, whether he had brought up any blood? On being answered in the negative, I replied, it is impossible then that the lungs can be wounded: but my anxiety increasing with the accounts I received, I hastened up stairs, into the front attic chamber, where I found Mr. TIFPLE in bed, supported by several pillows; and his left side being towards me, I proceeded to examine it, when, to my great surprise, I perceived air with blood, issuing freely from the part, which I

afterwards found to be the lower wound, inflicted by the iron under the shaft. Fearful of extending the arm lest it should augment the hemorrhage, I directly covered the wound with some linen, and brought the arm closely to his side.

Observing him to breathe with extreme difficulty, I advised him to keep himself still, and to answer my questions with as little exertion as possible. I then asked him, whether he felt pain in his back? He answered, "No; what I feel is, a dreadful weight in my chest, as if I should be suffocated by the blood trickling on my lungs." I begged of him to cease speaking; and told him, I would take away some blood, which I was the more anxious to do, being apprehensive he was suffocating from inward hemorrhage. I, therefore, as quickly as possible, opened a vein in his right arm with a very large orifice.

Finding the oppression gradually relieved, and that the pulse supported the evacuation, it was allowed to proceed till at least four pounds* of blood were taken, when fainting came on; upon which the attendants were eager to apply hartshorn, &c. but I advised them to desist, allowing them only to give him a little cold water.

Nothing more was done until SIR WILLIAM BLIZARD arrived, which was at about half-past eleven. When I had given him an account of the accident, and of what had been done, we proceeded to examine the lower wound on the left side, supposing that to be the part where the

* Avoirdupois weight.

shaft had entered; when Mr. TIPPLE himself informed us, with that perfect calmness which he manifested throughout our attendance, that “this was the wound made by the iron under the shaft; that the wound where the shaft entered was higher up, immediately under the arm;” and, he added, that “there was also a wound on the right side, nearly in the same direction, through which the shaft came out.”

On examination we found a corresponding wound under each arm, not less than four inches each in extent.

The left shoulder and side of the chest were, in a small degree, emphysematous.

As soon as the wounds were dressed, the arms carefully brought to the sides, and direction had been given concerning the quiet of our patient, we retired to another room.

SIR WILLIAM expressed his opinion, that Mr. TIPPLE would not live over the night, observing, that as soon as the action of the heart revived, the internal hemorrhage, which had been checked by the copious bleeding, would return, when he would sink. We left him between one and two in the morning, under this impression.

During the time I was waiting for SIR WILLIAM, I examined the shaft of the chaise very minutely, and observed that it was covered with blood, as far up as where it was supported by the tug; some small pieces of fleshy substance sticking to the tip of the front tug-hook, where it was turned backwards, and a piece of flesh, about the

length of the little finger, hanging to a splinter of the shaft, between three and four inches from the tip.

On opening the doors of the chaise-house, I had an illustration of the assertion of Mr. HENRY and Mr. EDWARD LAWRENCE; that the shaft projected several inches beyond the trunk of the body; as it had not only been forced through the weather-boarding on the outside of the building, after passing through Mr. TIPPLE's body, but had also broken down a large piece of the same kind of boarding, and had drawn two strong nails by which it was fastened to the quartering on the inside. The distance through the side of the chaise-house, including the thickness of the two boards, measured nearly five inches and a half.

Upon inspection of the wounds, we had further proof of the correctness of the Mr. LAWRENCE'S Statement, that the horse had forced the shaft to a great extent through Mr. TIPPLE'S body, as it was plain, that the front tug-iron under the shaft had entered the side.

It is proper here to observe, that there are two tug-hooks or irons under each shaft, to prevent the tugs which support the shafts by that part of the harness termed the back-band from slipping back; and, at the time of the accident, the tug was fixed in the further hook or iron from the end of the shaft, which left the front tug-hook exposed; by which the second wound, on the left side, below the part where the shaft entered, was inflicted: and no doubt could be entertained that this iron had penetrated the lungs, as air with blood escaped by that opening.

The portion of the shaft which passed through Mr. TIPP-
PLE'S body, up to the tug-iron, measures twenty-one
inches. The iron itself, by which the second wound was
made on the left side, under the part where the shaft en-
tered, measures three inches and a half. Ten inches of
the shaft from the extremity is square: the tip measures an
inch and three-sixteenths by three-quarters of an inch,
and, by being beveled off nearly the eighth of an inch, is
unusually small. The middle of that part of the shaft which
entered Mr. TIPP-LE'S chest, where the square terminates,
measures five inches and a quarter round; the part where
the tug-iron is fixed measures six inches.

Sunday, the fourteenth of June, at eight in the morning,
I again visited Mr. TIPP-LE, and, to my surprise, found
him nearly in the same state in which I had left him; and
was informed that he had enjoyed some sleep. I directed
the greatest attention to his quiet; and that nothing more
than a little cold water should be given to him, as I was
still apprehensive that the internal hemorrhage would return.

SIR WILLIAM BLIZARD being again sent for, visited
him about the middle of the day; and advised a draught
of the infusion of roses, with a drachm of the sulphate
of magnesia, every sixth hour.

We met on Monday the fifteenth, at eight o'clock, A. M.;
and finding the difficulty of breathing much increased,
with considerable pain, weight, and soreness in the chest,
he was again bled to the amount of thirty ounces, and
became much relieved.

The draughts having operated but slightly, and Mr. TIPP-
PLE complaining of great fullness about the stomach and
bowels, with some degree of nausea, an enema with castor-
oil, &c. was administered in the evening, and five grains
of calomel were ordered to be taken at bed time.

Tuesday, June the sixteenth; SIR WILLIAM attended
with me, at eight o'clock, the usual time of meeting to the
end; when we understood that the calomel had operated
gently two or three times, but that Mr. TIPP-
PLE had been very restless, and had vomited frequently. He complained
of considerable pain about the region of the diaphragm, at-
tended with the same difficulty of breathing, and soreness
in the chest, as described the morning before; whereupon
eighteen ounces of blood were taken from the arm, which
gave immediate relief. Glysters were repeated, and in
the afternoon, finding that the vomiting had increased,
with hickuping also, the saline draught, in the state of
effervescence, was prescribed, which happily relieved
those very distressing symptoms.

The fatal termination, which had been hourly expected
from the beginning of the accident, seemed, when I visited
him this night, fast approaching.

But on Wednesday, June the seventeenth, we found
Mr. TIPP-
PLE had passed a better night, with some sleep:
the difficulty of breathing being however greatly in-
creased, with the soreness of the chest, seventeen ounces
of blood were taken away, in consequence of which
these symptoms were alleviated. The calomel, which had

been repeated each night, having acted freely, his stomach and bowels were also much relieved.

As Mr. TIPPLE's position was seldom altered for the first fortnight, without my assistance, and this extraordinary accident weighing constantly on my mind, I took occasion to ask him, from time to time, while assisting him with my hand under his back, whether the pressure gave him any pain? and he always replied, it did not.

This day in the afternoon, while an assistant and myself, with our hands under his back, were gently raising him on his pillows, I particularly inquired, whether he felt any pain or soreness in his back? when he assured me he did not; and, doubtful whether any rib were fractured. I questioned him at the time of dressing his wounds, if he felt any pain in either side, he told me, no other than the smarting of his wounds, observing, as he had done before, that he thought, from the pain and great tenderness about the breast-bone, that it was broken.

Thursday, June the eighteenth—This morning we found his breathing very laborious, whereupon twenty-two ounces of blood were drawn; and, notwithstanding he was much relieved in point of respiration by this measure, he still complained of general tenderness in the chest and epigastrick region.

Although the calomel had acted rather freely, it was deemed advisable to add to its effect, by occasional doses of the sulphate of magnesia with the infusion of senna.

The symptoms in the morning having appeared urgent, in the course of the day I received a letter from SIR WILLIAM BLIZARD, advising me, if I conceived it to be necessary, to apply a very large blistering plaster over the sternum.

Friday, June the nineteenth.—This day the effects of the blistering plaster, and the very free evacuation of the bowels, rendered the repetition of bleeding unnecessary; but it was thought advisable to continue the aperient.

Saturday, June the twentieth.—This morning the symptoms were not so urgent as to induce us to repeat the bleeding; but in the evening, respiration becoming more difficult, nineteen ounces of blood were taken away.

This day I observed several threads of flannel, deeply in the wound under the right arm, which must have been rent from the under waistcoat, by the splinter near the end of the shaft as it was withdrawn. Finding some difficulty in an attempt to extract them, SIR WILLIAM advised me to let them remain, as they did for several days before they separated.

Sunday, June the twenty-first.—The symptoms being moderated, the treatment was similar to that of Friday; and broth was added to his diet, which to that period had been only of vegetable matter.

Monday, June the twenty-second.—This morning Mr. TIPPLE felt less pain and difficulty of breathing than he had done since the accident: but he had distressing sensations

about his chest, which, he said, he could not well describe ; and the pulse admitting the measure, SIR WILLIAM advised the abstraction of more blood.

Hitherto the situation of our Patient had been so critical as to render it hazardous to attempt the removal of the under flannel waistcoat, and the shirt, which were worn at the time of the accident. The blood, matter, &c. having rendered them very unpleasant, it was judged proper to change them, before the operation of blood-letting, while SIR WILLIAM was present.

Now, for the first time since the accident, MR. TIPPLE, while supported, sat up in bed, and his uncomfortable linen and waistcoat being removed, we were enabled to ascertain the situation of the wounds; and especially to examine the back, in no part of which the smallest trace of injury could be perceived, on the contrary, the integuments over the spine and shoulders appeared perfectly healthy and pliable, without swelling, or discolouration, or the least pain or tenderness upon being pressed.

When this duty and inquiry were finished, we retired. SIR WILLIAM immediately exclaimed, " I have witnessed what until now I should have conceived impossible: that the shaft has not passed over the spine is very clear; I have no doubt of its having perforated the chest; but in what manner the vital organs have escaped mortal hurt, no human being can tell; the case, I am persuaded, is without a parallel. Believing that the direction of the shaft has been through the thorax, I am of opinion that recovery

cannot rationally be expected; for, although he has been saved from internal hemorrhage by the large bleeding; and, notwithstanding its repetitions have kept down inflammatory action, still the chest internally must necessarily have suffered such injury as will eventually prove fatal." "Yet," continued SIR WILLIAM, "what appeared to us impossible, having already happened, we will not pronounce his final recovery impossible. Let us continue the struggle, and, whatever may be its result, we shall have the consolatory reflection of having done our duty. I would therefore advise perseverance in the means thus far successfully employed, and should accordingly repeat the bleeding."

As soon, therefore, as Mr. TIPPLE was recovered from the fatigue of changing his shirt, &c. I took away fourteen ounces of blood, by which he informed us, he was more relieved than he had been before; not feeling any pain, only a smarting sensation, similar to that which he experienced in the wounds under his arms, on each side the breast-bone, internally, in the direction in which he was convinced the shaft had passed.

As the blistered surface, from the plaster on Thursday, was nearly healed, another, larger, was directed to be applied; and the bowels to be frequently moved. By these means the symptoms were so much abated, as to render any further recurrence to the lancet unnecessary: and on Thursday the twenty-fifth day of June, the alarming effects of the injury had so far subsided, as to admit of a reasonable hope of Mr. TIPPLE's recovery. Nevertheless, as his situation remained critical, the blistered part was kept freely discharging; and the aperient medicines were fre-

quently administered for several days. He continued gradually to recover, and the wounds to heal, which from the extensiveness of the laceration, were however scarcely closed at the end of nine weeks.

Having made a statement of the different circumstances, as they occurred, in this extraordinary case, it may be expected, that I should offer an opinion of the probable direction of the shaft in passing through Mr. TIPPLE's body.

From his own narrative, and from the positive testimony of Mr. EDWARD and Mr. HENRY LAWRENCE, independently of my own observations, I have no hesitation in declaring my firm belief, that the shaft being small at the tip, and of a wedge-like form, was forced between the ribs on the left side, into and through the cavity of the thorax, under the sternum; and out between the ribs on the right side; not suddenly, but by several distinct movements, whence the lungs, large blood-vessels, &c. escaped fatal injury.

That the shaft took the direction described, is further proved by the laceration of the wounds being obliquely upwards towards the breast, as may at the present time be particularly observed, in the cicatrice of the wound on the left side, which tends very obliquely upwards to the front part of the arm-pit. The wound on the right side, was still more deeply lacerated under the integuments in front; whereas in its direction towards the back, it became very superficial. The threads, moreover, from the flannel waistcoat, which, doubtless, were drawn in on the right side, by the splinter, as the shaft was withdrawn, were so deeply

in towards the forepart of the chest that it was considered dangerous to remove them. Had the shaft taken a direction under the scapula, on being withdrawn the threads of flannel must have been carried backwards towards the spine: and, had the shaft passed under the muscles and integuments, across the spine, the laceration in that direction must have been very great, as the whole weight of Mr. TIPPLe's body was at times suspended, while the horse was plunging with him on the shaft, until extricated by the second Mr. LAWRENCE.

The cuticle being considerably grazed above the wound under the right arm, as it was forced against the boarding of the chaise-house, is a proof that the arm was extended upwards and forwards. Indeed, Mr. EDWARD LAWRENCE asserted, that when he first saw Mr. TIPPLe he had no idea that the shaft was through his body, nor until he had backed the horse with the shaft from the building; and that then for a few moments, he imagined Mr. TIPPLe was confined to the shaft, by its having passed through the front part of his clothes; while Mr. HENRY LAWRENCE, with his Brother, positively asserted, that both Mr. TIPPLe's arms were extended and bearing on the shaft.

Mr. TIPPLe, at this distance of time, feels considerable tenderness, from the slightest pressure on the forepart of the thorax.

Since the Statement, and the above Observations, were written, Mr. HENRY LAWRENCE has informed me, that Mr. TIPPLe's left arm was extended over the back-band, with the tug which supported the shaft directly under the arm in front.

Supplementary Facts, and Observations.

When the accident happened to Mr. TIPPLE, his digestive organs were, and had for some time been, in a weak condition; in this respect he is thought to be better now than he was before the occurrence: but his general strength is much impaired; his breathing, upon exertion, is difficult; and his sense of soreness in the breast remains undiminished.

During the first week or ten days there were several times strong expressions of inflammatory action in the region of the liver; and, within that period, some of the motions contained much dark grumous blood.

Opiates were administered at night occasionally.

The blistered surface of the breast was kept open to nearly the end of the attendance; as the discharge seemed constantly to afford benefit, and is supposed to have contributed greatly to final recovery.

There is now a depression of two or three of the cartilages, on the left side of the sternum; making a hollow, which Mr. TIPPLE affirms did not exist before his accident.

The cicatrice of the wound by the shaft, on the left side, is near to the fifth rib; on the right side somewhat lower.

FINIS.