

Kebedon 4<sup>th</sup> Mo 1850

Seeing the remarks made by  
the member for Glamorgan respecting the  
inquest held at Swansea upon the body of  
Jas Miles who died from the bite of a Snake  
at the Hut Quarry Marishes Kearney's Bog.  
Respected Friend

the remarks  
Seeing an attack on the character  
made by the member for Glamorgan ~~in the~~  
Legislative Council <sup>regarding an inquest held at Swansea upon the body of a man</sup> & beg to make the following  
~~statement~~ <sup>Snake</sup> considering that if blame is to  
fall upon any one it must be myself  
& allude to the Inquest held upon a man  
named Miles who was bitten by a Snake at  
Kearney's Bog -

<sup>that a man had died from the bite of a snake</sup>  
<sup>at Kearney's bog -</sup>  
Having been informed by the Chief Constable of the Report  
~~concerning~~ <sup>with the inquest</sup> it was considered impossible  
it became a matter of consideration as to whether ~~an~~  
~~obligation~~ <sup>in such an</sup> ~~inquest~~ could be obtained in such an out of the way  
place, ~~and there being no possibility of getting~~  
~~accident~~ <sup>with so few inhabitants within miles of the place where the</sup>  
~~question~~ <sup>therefore</sup> ~~arose~~ how could the body be conveyed to Swansea  
as the road was inaccessible for Carts.

Taking with me a Constable and a horse & having  
~~authority~~ <sup>authority</sup> from the Coroner to examine the body  
I proceeded to the spot. Constable's duty on Kearney's Bog  
and leaving the Horses there ~~was~~ was conducted about  
3 miles to the Hut where the body lay. As it was  
necessary in order to verify the statement of those who  
said the man died from the bite of the Snake, I was  
obliged to examine all the Cavities of the body and



and by this means the viscera became so displaced, and from the heat of the weather decomposition was proceeding so rapidly, that I saw, it was impossible to convey the body on horseback with the viscera remaining in their cavities, and therefore proposed to the companions of the man miles to destroy them by fire, which they readily consented to but notwithstanding this precaution and all the care I took with the body, it became very offensive and injurious to those conveying it.

In the whole matter I acted upon my own responsibility. I knew full well the difficulty not to say impossibility of removing a body such a distance and over such a rough road, after the a post mortem examination had been performed. ~~It was necessary that the examination should be effected before removing the body from the place that I might, either verify or be satisfied of the truth of the report, in case it was untrue steps might be at once taken to bring the proper & sufficient evidence before the jury.~~

~~I have often experienced great difficulty from decomposition going on so rapidly the weather being very warm, so that if I had waited until it arrived at W. M. I could not have satisfied myself so well of the post mortem appearance of the viscera.~~

It was necessary an examination should be ~~first~~ performed before the removal of the body to W. M.

1<sup>st</sup> because decomposition was proceeding rapidly would have rendered the appearance obscure and the conveying the body such a distance <sup>over such a road</sup> would have rendered the appearance <sup>of</sup> ~~very~~ <sup>extremely</sup> obscure.

2<sup>ndly</sup> it was necessary <sup>at once either</sup> to verify the <sup>truth of the</sup> report of the cause of the death of the man or <sup>in case of</sup> if ~~it~~ <sup>proved</sup> untrue that such steps as were necessary might be taken on the spot.

I need say nothing further on the subject. I did ~~do~~ <sup>acted</sup> to the best of my judgement in the matter and ~~do not~~ <sup>feel</sup> that I acted <sup>not</sup> improperly. Mens mihi ~~conscience~~ <sup>conscience</sup> recti =

and care I had <sup>there</sup> taken



3<sup>d</sup> 1/55

a committee of the legislative

Seeing the remarks made by the <sup>Committee of the</sup> Council by the Member for Glamorgan, respecting an <sup>inquest</sup> held at Waterloo Point upon a Man named John Miles who died <sup>suddenly</sup> at the Flint Quarry Marshes Kearney's Bog from the Bite of a snake I beg to make the following statement considering that if blame is attached to any one it must be to myself.

Having been informed by the Chief District Constable that a Man had died suddenly from the Bite of a snake at Kearney's Bog - I waited upon the Coroner and as it was considered impossible to obtain a jury in such a remote spot, where so few inhabitants could be found within many miles of it, the question arose how could the body be brought to Swansea over a Road impossible for Carts and of such a distance as 23 miles

~~However taking with me a Constable & Horse I proceeded to the Bog at the Bog having left the Horses there were conveyed to the Flint Quarry Marshes above 5 miles distant to the place where the body lay~~

However ~~taking~~ <sup>the next</sup> morning being accompanied by a Constable <sup>provided with</sup> a Horse I proceeded to the Bog & having left the Horses there a Provas was conducted to the place where the body lay about 5 miles distant.

Being obliged to make a careful examination of the whole of the Cavities of the Body, the viscera became so much displaced, & from the heat of the weather decomposition was proceeding so rapidly that I saw it would be impossible to convey the body <sup>to Swansea</sup> on Horses with the viscera remaining in their Cavities and therefore proposed to the Companions of the deceased <sup>rather than by any other</sup> as they might be equally by water to which they <sup>readily</sup> consented, notwithstanding this precaution and all the care taken to envelope the body in sheets and clothes furnished by the persons living with Miles, it became very offensive and also before reaching Mr P

and having prepared the body and envelope in various sheets & covered by the <sup>persons</sup> <sup>with whom</sup> <sup>lived</sup> I laid it a Heel <sup>proposed</sup> for the night & the following morning it was placed in a Provas by the Constable to the Police Officer <sup>but with all the precaution</sup> of the body before it reached its destination it had become very offensive