

In 1866, however, Mr. Melly was returned for Abercromby Ward without opposition, and in 1869, when he was elected for the last time, he defeated Mr. Robert Vinipg, the Conservative candidate, by a majority of 68 votes. From the time he retired from the Council, Mr. Melly gradually withdrew from active business and political life, and about nine years ago it was unfortunately found necessary to place him under restraint.

On Friday last the deceased gentleman came to his home in Aigburth on a visit in charge of an attendant, and was apparently in much better health than usual. On Saturday morning, however, during the temporary absence of the attendant from the bedroom, the deceased committed the rash act which resulted in his death. By some means or other he contrived to obtain possession of a loaded pistol, which he is supposed to have placed in his mouth and fired, and death resulted almost instantaneously. The attendant was horrified on returning on finding what had occurred in his absence, but he at once raised the alarm, and medical assistance was sent for, but of course without avail to the deceased.

Information of the sad event was despatched to the county police authorities and the following is the official report upon the affair:— P.C. 877 (Hodgson) reports the death of Chas. Pierre Melly, of Elmswood-road, Garston, gentleman, which took place at 7 30 a.m. on the 10th inst. It appears that for nine years the deceased has been of unsound mind, and for the last three years he has been an inmate of the Coburn-hill Asylum, Tafford. On Thursday, the 28th inst., he came home on a visit in charge of his attendant, Thomas Robinson, and on the 9th inst. and also on the morning of the 10th he appeared better than usual. About 7 a.m. on the 10th he said to his attendant, who slept in the same room, "I think it is about time to be getting up." Robinson said "Yes," and at once got up and went downstairs for the deceased's breakfast, leaving the deceased in bed. He was not away more than a quarter of an hour, and when he returned he found the deceased dead in bed with a pistol by his side. Deceased had evidently placed the pistol in his mouth, as part of his face and head had been blown off. It is not known how the deceased came to be in possession of the pistol and ammunition, but there are several pistols of a similar kind as well as ammunition in the house, which the deceased might have got at unnoticed. There is no suspicion of foul play. The deceased was very wealthy and well connected, and his wife and family are very much distressed.