

ALC/D/072

from: The Hertford Mercury, Saturday, April 2y 1848.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

On Wednesday last a shocking a fatal accident occurred at the viaduct erecting of the Great Northern Railway at Rabley Bottom near Welwyn by which one of the workmen has lost his life and five others have been placed in a position of imminent danger. - It appears that at seven o'clock on Wednesday morning six of the workmen employed in constructing the viaduct, were following their occupations on scaffolding raised about forty feet above the earth, and supported by ropes. Mr. Chambers, the sub-contractor had only just left the spot, when one of the ropes gave way and all the workmen were precipitated from the scaffolding. One of the men named John Cummings a bricklayer's labourer sustained such injuries and different parts of the body that he only survived a quarter of an hour. All the other men were more or less injured, some &f them very severely. Several were conveyed to Welwyn where they still remain.

On Thursday an inquest-was held on the body of Cummings, before F.J. Osbaldeston at the Welwyn workhouse. Mr. Chambers, the subcontractor and one of the workmen named William Reed described the circumstances under which the accident occurred. The rope, the breaking of which had occasioned the accident, was produced; it appeared a new rope, of the size ordinarily used for such purposes. it also appeared that the scaffolding, which was only erected on Saturday last, was inspected every morning, so that no blame can be attached to the managers at the works. It was stated that the deceased was carrying a hod of bricks at the time the scaffolding gave way. The Jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

We understand that the other men-although very seriously injured, are all likely to recover.