

ACT TWO

Scene 3 : A railway accident at Wolverton

(ENTER CORONER, MANNERS, BRADBURY, FOSSEY, JURYMAN)

CORONER: Members of the Jury, on the night of Saturday, 11th June, in this year of 1847, an alarming and fatal occurrence took place within a short distance of Wolverton Station. The lamentable nature of this case demands at your hands the strictest investigation. Your verdict must emanate entirely from the evidence that will be laid down before you. You must not be biased by any reports you may have heard outside this room. The important question you will have to answer will be whether the train went off the right line through any individual's wilfulness, ignorance or neglect. Ignorance of itself will be sufficient, if proved, to justify a verdict of manslaughter. I call upon the engine driver to give evidence.

(AS MANNERS DESCRIBES WHAT HAPPENED, HE, BRADBURY AND FOSSEY ENACT THE SCENE...