

Mrs. Stent Acts Quickly To Ensure Robbers Caught

On Wednesday last Joseph Goulding, Francis Gibson, and Richard Narey were committed to the county gaol at Winchester, by John Pollen, Esq; charged with breaking open a box in the house of Mrs. Mary Stent, at West Harnham, near this city, and stealing twelve guineas in gold, two pairs of silver salts, six tea-spoons, and two pepper castors.

Mrs. Stent, on discovering the robbery, on Monday last, about one o' clock, immediately suspected the above three men, who had been drinking there that morning, and for three or four days before, at different times; She therefore had some handbills printed and dispersed with the utmost expedition, giving a description of them; one of which being seen by the Maltster of the Swan Inn at Andover, early on Tuesday morning, convinced him that the same three men had lodged at his house the preceding night, and had about half an hour before set off on the outside of the Exeter coach for London; upon which he immediately, with a constable, pursued them in a post-chaise and four, and at Freefolk, a place between Whitchurch and Overton, they were apprehended, with all the plate upon them.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Monday 28 August 1775