



Theft of Publicans Fowl

William Olding, of Downton, was charged with stealing three fowls, the property of Charles Barrett, landlord of the Wilton Arms, Fisherton Anger. On the 11th of the present month, the prosecutor bought three fowls of the prisoner in the pig-market, and placed them in a cart belonging to a man named Scammell, and went home in order to procure a basket in which to carry them away; this took place about half past 11; but he did not pay for them until after dinner, when he gave the prisoner 5s for them. On going to the cart he found they had been taken away, and immediately instituted enquiries about them, but could get no information as to whose possession they were in. He did not see them again until last Friday morning, when he discovered them in front of Mr Davis's shop in Catherine Street, by whom witness was informed that he (Mr Davis) had purchased them of a woman named Jones, of Downton and she said her husband had purchased them of the prisoner with others of the same work. A carrier stated that on the 11th he found a hamper in his waggon and as he was leaving Salisbury the prisoner told him to take it to his house which he did. The fowls were produced, and the prosecutor positively swore to them, but Mr. Davis said he thought it impossible to swear to them, and Jones said the fowls which his wife had sold to Mr. Davis were not the ones he bought of the prisoner at the time mentioned, and that he had them at home now. There being no private mark on the fowls, and it appearing evident that a great deal of conflicting evidence would be offered, the magistrates recommended the parties to retire and see if they could not settle the matter, which they did, the defendant paying the costs. Before he left the Court, the Bench said they were still of opinion that he unlawfully ordered the fowls to be sent to his house after having been paid for them, and advised him to be more cautious in his future transactions.

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