



Daring Robbery

On Friday November 30, one of the barns on the premises of Mr. John Jeffery, who rents a farm at Ansty, on the road from Salisbury to Shaftesbury - the barns in question being conspicuously situated on a hill between Ansty and Swallowcliff, about four hundred yards from the turnpike road - was broken into by a daring gang of thieves, who put up the winnowing apparatus, and winnowed about seven sacks of wheat, which they carried across the fields to a conveyance on the turnpike road. By the scattering of the wheat and the prints of their shoes, it was evident that they had travelled towards Wilton; but after pursuing the track to some distance, all appearances gradually disappeared.

One of the thieves evidently turned over the downs towards Broad Chalke, and the others had doubtless gone about to the left to avoid suspicion. When it was too late, information was received of a covered cart having passed through Fovant gate about six o'clock. The wheat was not the only thing stolen; the villains killed two fine wether lambs belonging to Mr. Jeffery, which were in a fold near the barns. They took all the principal parts and left the offal. The most expert butcher could not have skinned them and cut them up in a neater manner. There must have been a large gang - not less, it is supposed, than ten. They placed sentries at what they considered proper places and distances. These were seen, but not suspected at the time.

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