

Crime and Punishment

Dilton Marsh



Stabbing at Dilton Marsh

George King of Dilton Marsh, labourer, has been committed for trial at the assizes on the charge of stabbing and wounding a young man called John Cray of Dilton Marsh. The complainant deposed that on the previous Saturday evening between seven and eight o'clock he was standing in the road near Clivey Gate with a young lad named Dew. The prisoner was passing by, and he said to his companion "Here comes King!" At which remark the prisoner said "If any of you say anything to me I will hit a knife at you" and instantly stabbed him in the left arm, and made a second attempt, but he parried him off and ran away. Nathaniel Dew corroborated the complainant in every particular. Mr. Shorland, a surgeon deposed to dressing the complainant's arm and said it was a very deep incised wound nearly two inches long, a large hemorrhage had taken place. The wound was on the outside of the arm and not dangerous but great force must have been used with a knife or some other sharp implement. The prisoner (whose looks bespeaks insanity) in defence said that Clay had upset him first in the road and was about to give him a slap in the head. The prisoner's father said he was not in his right mind, and he never cried since he was born, and that all the beating in the world could not make him cry. The prisoner had threatened to use the knife on many previous occasions, and is looked upon as a half silly, malicious fellow whom the inhabitants of Marsh will doubtless be glad to be rid of.

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