

# Crime and Punishment

*Dinton*



## **CHARGE OF ROBBERY AGAINST AN EX-POLICE-SERGEANT**

Jacob Nash, of Dinton, pedlar, but who was some time since a sergeant of police in the Wilts Constabulary, was brought up in custody charged with stealing a shirt from the dwelling-house of John Godwin, at Dinton, on Sunday, the 6th November, 1870.- Harriet Weeks, daughter of Mr Godwin went with her father to church in the afternoon of the day named. Upon her return she found the dairy-room window open, and that an iron bar had been wrenched and a pane of glass removed. She afterwards discovered that two sovereigns and two half-sovereigns had been taken from her father's purse, and that some silver belonging to herself had been stolen. She also missed her father's gray woolen shirt, some aprons, and some fourpenny pieces.- Police-Sergeant Porter, whilst passing the prisoner's garden in the 14th inst., observed a shirt which answered the description if the one stolen a year ago, and on showing it to prosecutor's daughter she identified it as such. The prisoner was thereupon apprehended, and in answer to the charge of stealing the shirt, said he bought the "stuff" in Salisbury, and his wife made it up. On the 17th, however, he made a statement to the effect that he bought the shirt from Albert Coombes, painter, of Dinton, for 2s. 6d., on the 27th December, 1870, but on the 20th he contradicted himself, and admitted that that allegation was untrue.- The prisoner was committed for trial at the ensuing quarter sessions at Devizes, but was admitted to bail, himself in 40 £ and a surety in a similar sum.

*(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1871)*

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*Jacob Nash*, an ex-policeman, was indicted for breaking into the dwelling-house of John Godwin, and stealing a shirt, at Dinton, on the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1870. Mr Read prosecuted.

The prosecutor and his daughter, who acts as his housekeeper, left home to go to church, and on their return they found that the house had been entered. They missed three sovereigns and some silver, some spoons, razors, a bottle of rum, and a woolen shirt. A shirt was found in the prisoner's possession in December last, which the prosecutor's daughter swore belonged to her father. She said she cut it out and made it herself. When charged with stealing it he said he bought the stuff and his wife made it. The prisoner was seen about half-a-mile from the prosecutor's house on the day of the robbery, but he had no bundle with him. To Superintendent Dann he made a statement, which was taken down in writing, to the effect that he bought the shirt of a man named Coombs. He subsequently said the statement was wrong, and wished the superintendent to destroy it, which he refused to do. When before the magistrates the prisoner said he found the shirt in Dinton Park.

To-day he made no defence, and the jury found him guilty. He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment with hard labour. The Court ordered a gratuity of 1 l. to be paid to Sergeant Porter, the officer who was the principal means of bringing home the charge to the prisoner.

*(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1872)*

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