



Labourer Shoots At Boy

Wilts Summer Assizes

Wm. Fulford, 63, labourer, was charged with maliciously shooting at Charles Plasket, with intent to maim, disfigure or disable him at Downton, on the 5th July 1870. This was a case in which some scandal appeared to have arisen about prisoner; and a number of boys, on the 4th July, in the evening, armed themselves with old tin pots, kettles, sticks, &c., and paraded in front of prisoner's house, and several panes of glass were broken in prisoner's windows. Prisoner and his wife and daughter were naturally much annoyed, and on the following evening, when the noise was renewed, prisoner, who was standing at his wicket-gate with a gun in his hand, pointed the gun at the boys and fired, and sent several shots into the prosecutor's head.

This evidence was corroborated by other witnesses.

Mr Caesar, surgeon, deposed to having on the following day extracted several small shots from the head of the boy Plasket, but the wounds were not dangerous. The prisoner did not deny the offence, but pleaded excessive provocation. The jury found him guilty. His lordship said the prisoner had met with great provocation, and he thought the justice of the case would be met if he discharged him upon his own recognizance to come up for judgement when called upon. His lordship said the police were much to blame for not having protected the prisoner from such repeated annoyances, especially if (as he said) he had given them notice of it.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 21 July 1870