



## **Trial of Charles Gleed and Tom Goulding**

At the Town Hall on Tuesday (before C. R. Luce and W. H. Luce, Esqs) two labourers of Hankerton, named Charles Gleed and Tom Goulding were charged with malicious injury to the lock of a door at Hankerton. Maria Bishop said she was a widow living by herself in Cloatley, in the parish of Hankerton. On Sunday night last, at about quarter to 12 o'clock, she was in bed asleep, when she was awoken by a noise at her door. She went to the window and asked who was there, when she saw the two prisoners, whom she knew quite well. She spoke to Gleed, who asked her for a light, and she threw a few matches to him out of the window, and told them to go away quickly. They seemed both to have been drinking. One of them said to the other, "I won't go till I've had what I want," and then all went quiet for a few minutes, and witness returned to bed. After that she heard a great noise at the door, and then she heard someone coming up the stairs. She immediately jumped out of bed and opened her bedroom door, when she saw Tom Goulding nearly at the top of the stairs. He had a lighted match in his hand. Witness up with her hand, struck him on the chest and knocked him backwards down the stairs. No one attempted to come up the stairs again.

As he was coming up the stairs, witness exclaimed, "Good God! what shall I do? To which Goulding replied, "I'll see what I can do in a few minutes. I'll make you halloa murder, or I'll halloa murder!" Witness saw noone but Goulding in the house, and he did not attempt to come up the stairs again. After they had gone she went to bed, and at half past six next morning, when she came down stairs, she found the lock of the door broken and the bolt lying on the floor. The top hinge was also broken. Witness was closely cross-examined by Goulding, with the view of showing that she was not so unwilling to receive him as she had endeavoured to make out. But this was denied: and the Bench fined the defendants £1 each, including costs.

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