

# *Crime and Punishment*

## *Hilmarton*



Calne Petty Sessions, Monday

*Before the Rev. Canon Goddard (in the chair). Captain Prowse, Major Heneage, the Rev. W.C. Plenderleath, and H.H. Smith, esq*

Trivial Assault. --- Robert Slade of Cowage Cottage, Hilmarton, was charged with assaulting George Ritchens of Calne Marsh, jobbing gardener.- The complainant stated that on the 20th October, between seven and eight o'clock in the evening, he went into Drew's public House. The accused came in soon afterwards the worse for liquor, and at once said he (complainant) knew nothing about gardening, and he replied that he had sufficient knowledge of it to get a living. Some further words passed between them, and the defendant came forward and struck him on the side of the head three or four times and also injured his hat. Richen's story was that as soon as he went into the public house, the complainant at once talked to him in an insolent way about the pruning of trees on Cowage Farm, which was formerly done by him. He told Slade to shut up and at the same time took hold of him and shook him. He denied striking the prosecutor, whose hat was trodden upon by accident. The Rev. Canon Goddard, who retired from the Bench during the hearing of this case, gave Richens a good character.-The Bench considered the assault a trivial one, and ordered the defendant to pay 5s including costs.

[Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 22nd November 1888](#)