



Crime and Punishment

Minety

Claims Court

Charlotte Telling v Charles Brown

At the Cirencester Petty Sessions, Mr Charles Brown, of Minety, appeared to answer to a complaint preferred against him by Charlotte Telling, for non-payment of wages.

It appeared that the girl was in the employ of Mr Brown, to whom she was hired, but having been detected in purloining some cheese, she was prosecuted, and being convicted, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment. On her coming out of prison, she called upon Mr Brown, and asked him for the wages due to her prior to her imprisonment. and on being refused, summoned him.

Mr Brown said that having the opinion of a legal gentleman upon the subject, he objected to the payment; the ground of his objection was, that she had been hired for a twelvemonth, and that not having performed her contract, she was not entitled to her wages.

The Bench, however, did not concur on this opinion, and, the contract not having been dissolved by mutual consent, conceived that the girl's claim was good. Telling was hired at £9 a year, and had not quite completed six months of her servitude when her imprudent conduct was discovered. She had, however summoned her master for £5, but this was not allowed by the magistrates, who, after making a calculation, ordered Mr Brown to pay the girl the sum of £3 19s. Mr Brown immediately paid it, saying he should have not objected tom it had he thought she had been legally entitled to it.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 9 November 1843