



Crime and Punishment

Salisbury

FEARFUL ENCOUNTER WITH A WILD MAN.

A strange incident occurred at Salisbury, N.W., some three weeks since. It appears that a wild man – an uncouth, horrible looking creature, who is supposed to dwell in the woods – has lately been seen in the neighbourhood of this district. On Wednesday he paid a visit to a farm in the occupation of Mr. Petworth. The wild man is described by those who have seen him to be so hideous in appearance that _____ (people run) at his approach. It so chanced, however, that the farmer's wife and daughter did not observe _____ (him) until he had caught Mrs. Petworth in his _____ (grip), apparently for the purpose of bearing her off. The daughter flew to protect her mother, whereupon _____ (she received a) blow from the club of the wild man which _____ (left her) senseless. The piercing shrieks, however, of the mother and daughter alarmed the neighbours. Mr. Jarvis, a friend of the Petworth's, hastened towards the spot from whence the cries were heard. He carried in his hand a gun loaded with duck shot, and upon observing Mrs. Petworth in the arms of her ruffian assailant, he leveled the gun, but hesitated, being afraid of discharging its contents lest he should injure his friend's wife; "Fire! fire! Mr. Jarvis; never mind me; fire; for mercy's sake!" He no longer hesitated. A flash and a loud report followed, and the wild man dropped his burden and, roaring with pain, was about to attack Mrs. Jarvis with his club, but upon the latter once more leveling his gun, the wild man fled precipitately. From the amount of blood found near the spot, it is surmised that he is very seriously wounded. Search has been made for him; but as yet no one has been able to discover his lurking place.

Illustrated Police News, 24 March 1877

OPC Notes

Where _____ appears, it denotes damage to the newsprint and illegible detail. We have guessed at what the damaged print might have been and this appears in green print and bracketed.