



Crime and Punishment

Seend

Killing and Injuring Sheep

A man is in custody at Devizes on a charge of killing a sheep and injuring another. His name is William Porter, and when he was brought he was in a pitiable plight. He appeared to be a respectable, educated man, but his clothes were soiled and torn, and his boots nearly off his feet. Information, it seems, reached Mr Superintendent Woodman that a sheep was found killed and another nearly dead, in the sheepfold of Mr Puckeridge, and the police visited the spot and found the sheep as described.

From particulars gathered there they went in search of the prisoner, and found him in a yard at Seend washing mud and blood off his trousers. He was wild and incoherent; said he had been dealing largely that day; that he had turned £1000 profit in business, and other statements that convinced the police he was labouring from delirium tremens. He was taken into custody, when he said his brother-in-law was in a large way of business at Bristol, and was worth £2000; that he himself had been a traveller for Mr W Applegate, wine and spirit merchant of Trowbridge, and had travelled England, Ireland and Scotland. He told a tale of a tall tramp who helped him to kill the sheep, and admitted that he did the deed with a stick which was found on him; and added, "I had neither knife nor scissors". He said he intended selling the mutton, and offered the policeman a joint for 6d. He is detained in Devizes gaol for the present, and is under medical surveillance.

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