



Crime and Punishment

Sutton Mandeville

Alfred Johnson was indicted for stealing a hempen halter, the property of Edward Spence, of Sutton Mandeville, and was acquitted.

Charles Johnson and Alfred Johnson (the prisoner who was acquitted in the former case) were indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Robert Bracher Larkham, at Sutton Mandeville, and stealing therefrom twenty pounds of salted pork, his property. Mr W. Slade prosecuted; the prisoners were undefended.

Mary Tinham, servant to the prosecutor, deposed to salting some chins and pigs' feet, and placing them in the cellar of her master's house. She left home on Christmas-day and went to her father's house, and on returning back on the following Sunday she found that all the meat was gone with the exception of two pig's feet. The lattice window had been wrenched open, an iron bar had been broken, and a large opening had been made. While she was at her father's house on the Sunday he told her he had bought a chine of pork of Charles Johnson. She afterwards fetched this chine from her father's, and on comparing it with what was left found that it matched well.

James Tinham, the father of the last witness, deposed to purchasing the pork from Charles Johnson for two shillings and sixpence.

Robert Bracher Larkham, the prosecutor, deposed that the cellar had evidently been broken open, and an aperture was made large enough for a man to enter. He corroborated the statement of his servant as to the pork bought by her father matching with what was left.

Other evidence was given to show that a button which had been picked up after the burglary corresponded with those on Alfred Johnson's jacket, from which a button was missing.

In defence, Charles Johnson said that he had purchased a chine of pork of his brother Alfred, for half-a-crown, and he had sold it to Tinham for the same amount. The other prisoner said that he had found the chine of pork as he was crossing the meadows, and he had sold it to his brother for two shillings and sixpence.

The jury found the prisoners guilty, and they were sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour, the CHAIRMAN observing that of the robbery of which they had been convicted had been committed at night, they would have been liable to be transported for life.

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