



Stealing Ducks

On Monday last Thomas Lawes, the son of a respectable farmer of that name, at Tilshead, was, with his father, brought before the magistrates, at Devizes, charged with stealing two ducks, the property of George Axford, the landlord of a public house in the same village. It appeared that ten ducks had been turned loose on Axford's premises on Tuesday night, and that on the following morning two of them were missing; but the last persons upon whom suspicion would have fallen would have been the Lawes's, had it not been for a circumstance which induced enquiry, and ultimately led to the discovery of the stolen property on their premises. It appears that at about one o'clock on Tuesday night, as some person was passing Lawes's house he observed a light in it, and regarding it as an unusual circumstance he looked in and there saw two ducks lying dead. When the loss of Axford's ducks therefore became known, what had been seen was of course communicated, and on Friday morning Lawes's house was searched and the identical missing ducks found on the premises. Unable or unwilling to account satisfactorily for their possession, both father and son were taken into custody on the next day, and conveyed to Devizes, but bail was accepted for the father in the evening, and he was set at liberty until Monday, when both appeared before the Bench. The result was the dismissal of the charge against the father, who there is reason to believe had nothing to do with the robbery, and the committal of the son to prison for a month, he having confessed to having obtained possession of the ducks - but saying that he bought them of a man he did not know, for 2s., in Tilshead Street.

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