

# Crime and Punishment

**Alvediston**



## **STEALING FIRE WOOD**

### **Quarter Sessions at Devizes**

James White and John Hawkins alias Rawkins, were indicted for stealing six wood faggots, value 6d each, on the 27th November, the property of Thomas King, esq., of Alvediston. The theft was clearly proved.

White said in his defence, that he had a wife and six children in the greatest possible distress; that he had not a stick to burn; that Mr King's woodman formerly brought a quantity of faggots in the winter, and allowed him to pay for them at harvest; but that he had not done so this winter. Besides, he thought Mr King had taken the law into his own hands, as for 3 weeks after the wood was taken, he made him and his companion carry faggots four times a day, in rough and rugged weather, and he wanted to increase it to 5 times, which was more that they could bear, and they were in consequence committed.

Hawkins said he was pretty nearly shram'd to death with the cold; that he had work'd for Mr King 9 years, and never had a misword. The Jury found them both guilty.

A former conviction against White for stealing a sheep from Mr King was then proved, and he was sentenced to 7 years transportation. Hawkins (this being his first offence) was sentenced to 6 months hard labour.

**Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 3 January 1834**