



Theft of Canvas Bags

At the County Petty Sessions

Sidney Gait and Thomas Hibberd

Prosecution: Mr. Swayne

Defence for Sidney Gait: Mr. Slade

Sidney Gait and Thomas Hibberd were both charged with stealing 32 canvas bags, the property of Mr. Newell Vicary Squarey at Britford on the 28th January last.

PC Calloway was on duty on the evening in question near Mr. Squarey's store. The prisoner Hibberd was there walking backwards and forwards five or six times. He then entered the gate into the field that leads into the stores in the yard. 10 minutes afterwards Gait came out of the same entrance, looked each way and then beckoned with his head towards the stores. The witness (PC) saw the door of the barn open. Immediately after Gait had beckoned Hibberd, he came out with a large bundle of bags on his shoulder. PC Calloway asked him what he had got and he said some bags that he had bought in the country, but did not from whom.

Witness (PC) took Hibberd back and met Gait, who he questioned as to his conduct in disposing of his Master's property in that manner, but Gait denied having seen Hibberd.

Gait was acquitted. Hibberd was found guilty and sentenced to 3 months imprisonment.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, January 1851