



Swing Riots

Farmer Bartlett Pinniger's Farm Attacked

Wilts Special Commission, Salisbury, Wednesday

James Lush and **George Toomer** were again charged with having robbed **Bartlett Pinniger**, of two sovereigns, his property. **Mr. Bartlett Pinniger** is a farmer, living at Coombe Bissett. On the 23rd November he was told that a mob had collected, and were coming down to Coombe; he in consequence went home, armed himself with a brace of pistols, and about 20 or 30 men whom he had collected together with sticks, ready to meet them. They waited till ten o'clock, when he closed the gates.

A neighbour of his, of the name of **Fleetwood**, then came up to him with a lanthorn, and while they were talking the mob came up; he took the lanthorn out of **Mr. Fleetwood's** hand, and leant over the wall, saying, that he would not give them any money, but that they might go and break the machine; he did this because his wife was very ill, and he was afraid she would be alarmed. They said they should not have money, and that he would shoot them. They said, "Oh, you can shoot but one of us." One of the men having effected an entrance into the yard, he called out "Come on." The mob then pressed witness and **Mr. Fleetwood** so hard that he called to his men to come and assist. He again held up the lanthorn, and held out the pistol, which flashed in the pan when he pulled the trigger. The mob kept on striking the lanthorn with sticks until the light was struck out. He received a severe blow on the arm, and many of his men had broken heads. A scuffle then ensued, and finding (from the nature of their numbers and weapons) that they could do nothing with them, he called out that he would give them the two sovereigns.

One of the men, who had a sledge-hammer, was knocking down the walls at this time. The generality of the mob had very large sticks. He asked who took the money, and immediately one of them took it; several of them called out, as if in doubt of it having been given; they then called out for the machine, and he having told them where it was, they went and broke it. This stick was taken from one of the mob; it was the branch of a tree, and was used by sawyers as a lever to move timber. He could not identify either of the prisoners.

David Hillier, a man who was in the employ of the last witness, proved having seen the two prisoners in the yard on the 23rd November; he also spoke to the fact of the scuffle; he received a blow in it, which made him feel a "little senseless," but he recovered just as the money was given; the prisoners either had sticks or iron bars in their hands.

William Baker, another servant of the prosecutor's, also identified the prisoners.

The prisoner Lush: My Lord, I should like to know whether there is any punishment for that witness who swears a false oath?

Mr. Justice Alderson: Certainly there is.

Lush: Then, milord, that's the man.

Witness said: I have spoken the truth, James, you know.

Lush (grasping the bar in front of the Dock): My Lord, I wish my hands may never come up if he has not sworn falsely against me. Oh! William, you be a false man. You're a scandalous fellow to destroy a poor man's life in this manner.

The prisoners, in their defence, protested their innocence.

Mr Justice Alderson having summed up, the Jury found the prisoners both Guilty.

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