



Boy, John Compton, Damages Gate

Willfully Damaging A Gate

A labouring boy, named John Compton, pleaded guilty to a charge of having willfully damaged a gate belonging to the Rev. W. E. Burkitt, at Charlton, having wrenched off the iron fastening for the padlock. The Rev. Gentleman said the youth's parents were respectable, hard-working people and he did not wish to press the charge heavily against the boy. The damage had been done in mischief, and he was quite sure it had not been maliciously done; but he was much subjected to annoyances of this kind, and his wall had been several times damaged. The defendant, who said nothing in explanation of his conduct, was ordered to pay 6d. for the damage done to the gate, together with a fine of 2s. 6d. and costs, or in default to go to gaol for seven days. Lord Folkstone told him that he was liable to a penalty of £5, with three month's imprisonment, in default of payment, and for a second offence he might be sent to gaol for twelve months without the option of paying a fine.

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