



# Crime and Punishment

*Norton Bavant*

## The Theft of Eggs – Thomas Northeast

Police Court, Saturday. - **Before Mr. G.L Lopes, Capt., Southey, and the Rev. W Hickman.** - **Thomas Northeast** head gardener to **Mrs. Torrance**, of Norton Bavant House, was charged with stealing on the previous Sunday four hen's eggs the property of **Tom Shepherd**, carpenter, of Norton Bavant.

From the evidence it appeared that the prosecutor had for some time past missed eggs from a nest near his house, and on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, he placed two eggs in the nest and marked them. On the following Sunday morning they were still there, and he put three more with them. Somewhat later on he hid himself in the garden, and about twelve o'clock he saw the defendant enter the garden and go to the nest, and take the eggs. Prosecutor went up to the defendant and demanded the eggs. Defendant gave them up, and said "Why did you not wait to see if I was going to take them away?" and further remarked that he intended to bring the eggs into prosecutor's house. Prosecutor offered to forgive the defendant if he would admit the theft, and gave him until the same evening to consider it; but as the defendant did not comply with his offer, he gave information to the police, who instituted the present prosecution. Subsequently defendant admitted taking the eggs for his own use. - **Mrs. Torrance** gave defendant an excellent character. The Bench took a merciful view of the case and fined defendant ten shillings including costs.

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