



# *Crime and Punishment*

## *Odstock*

### *Assault by Naked Man 1799*

An outrage of a most peculiar nature was committed in this neighbourhood on Monday evening last: - Two young ladies of Homington, sisters, had accompanied a friend to the adjacent village of Odstock, and were returning, about nine o'clock, to their own home; on the down, nearly midway between the villages, stands hay-stack, from behind which a man, entirely naked, rushed down to the path, seized the ladies around the neck, threw them on the ground; his whole behaviour, as may be conjectured, was equally brutal with his appearance; but the resolution of the ladies in repelling his insults frustrated all his efforts; after a short but violent struggle in which both seized him at the same time by the hair, they got extricated from his grasp, and the fellow, alarmed lest their cries should bring one to their assistance, retreated as swiftly as he had ran to assault them; The ladies gladly ran contrary way, and on reaching home, and explaining the cause of their disordered appearance, a young man immediately mounted on horseback, rode to the haystack, and a considerable distance in every direction unfortunately without meeting or discovering the offender.

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