



### **SUPPOSED ATTEMPT TO ROB THE CATHEDRAL**

On the evening of Thursday se'nnight, as Mr. Verrinder, the verger of the Cathedral, was sitting at the window of his house, about six o'clock, he heard the gate of the north porch close, and some time afterwards he heard a noise as if it had been shut again. As there are several persons who have keys of the doors of the cathedral, his suspicions were not aroused by this occurrence, and he did not go in search of the person who had closed the gate.

It is customary for Mr. Verrinder to visit the church every night, for the purpose of seeing that all things are right, and on the night in question he went to the edifice about eight o'clock, and found the north door shut but not locked, and the door that leads to the library staircase unlocked but shut to.

On the afternoon the next day two of the minor canons, wanting to go to the library, went up the stairs, but they found the door locked, and could not get in. Thinking that someone was inside reading or asleep, they went down stairs and did not again attempt to enter the room.

At eight o'clock on Friday night Mr. Verrinder went up the stairs and tried the door, and finding it locked managed to get access to the library, when he found that the door had been locked with a key which had broken off on the outside. This key was of lead, and was a rude imitation of the master keys used in unlocking the doors of the Cathedral.

It is conjectured that the thief intended getting into the library for the purpose of carrying off books, plate or other valuables, and that on breaking his key he made his escape, leaving the doors of the library staircase and the north porch unlocked.

**Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 21 September 1867**