



# *Crime and Punishment*

*Seend*

## *Dispute Over Inquest Evidence*

Edward Staples, Seend, was summoned by Millicent Pearce to be bound over to keep the peace.

The complainant said on the 14th September the defendant came to her door and began an altercation with her husband with reference to her having attended as a witness at an inquest which had been held on a child of the defendant's who had died. She went to the door and he there said "I'd smash thee if thee were a wife of mine. I would break thee neck". She made application because she was afraid the defendant would do her some bodily injury.....

....Daniel Fear said he was standing outside Mrs Pearce's door on the 14th September when the defendant came up. It was the day of the inquest and the verdict was that the child had died from want of proper nourishment. Defendant accused Mrs Pearce of saying the child was starved and used the expression sworn to by Mrs Pearce.

Cross examined: the jury decided the child was weak from its birth. - Fanny Haddrell and Eli Pearce also swore the defendant made use of the above expressions.

For the defence Edward Staples swore that the plaintiff said to him that he starved the child, she also called his house a filthy house and spat in his face....

Sarah Staples and Maria Doel corroborated the defendant's evidence.

The magistrates bound over the defendant for keep the peace for six months.

**Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 11 November 1886**