



Receiving Stolen Coal

George Barber (25) labourer of Chicklade pleaded guilty to stealing 84 lbs weight of coal, the property of Messrs. Wiles and Westcott at Semley on the 2nd of May; and William Lampard (25) labourer was charged with receiving the same, well knowing it to have been stolen. The latter pleaded that he was not aware the coal had been stolen.

Mr. Radcliffe prosecuted and the prisoner was undefended. It appeared that on the day in question Barber was employed to take out a load of coal for the prosecutors, when he was seen to take the quantity he was charged with stealing and place it under a hedge in a field at the top of Barker's Hill. PC. Hayter, having received information, watched the coal, and about half past eight in the evening prisoner came out of one of the cottages near, carrying a bag and accompanied by a little girl. Prisoner put the coal in the bag and walked away. The officer followed him and asked him what he was going to do with it. He said he did not know.

Hayter told him it was stolen coal and he should take him into custody on the charge of receiving it knowing it to have been stolen. He subsequently said his mother told him to fetch it. The other prisoner (Barber) when in custody said a man named Birt employed by the firm told him to put up a hundred weight of coals for Lampard. Birt was sworn and denied having made such a statement. The jury found prisoner guilty, and Barber's employer having prayed the Court to deal leniently with him, he was sentenced to three months hard labour, the same punishment being also awarded to the other prisoner.

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