

Crime and Punishment

Steeple Ashton



Shooting Whilst Drunk

Western Circuit

On Thursday, at Salisbury, before Mr Justice Wills, GEORGE MARKS, on bail, was charged with feloniously shooting at Mr CHARLES PICKETT, at Steeple Ashton on April 1 last. The only matter of interest in the case was that the grand jury ignored a bill for common assault which was also preferred against the prisoner.

From the facts of the case it appeared that the prosecutor and the prisoner were neighbours and had not been on friendly terms for some time past. On the evening in question, when it was dusk, the prosecutor alleged that the prisoner pointed his gun at him and fired, the shot passing within a few inches of his head, the prisoner at the time being drunk. The prisoner went into the box and declared that he never intended to fire at the prosecutor, and never saw him; also the muzzle of his gun was pointing up in the air, and the shot was intended merely as a signal to his wife that he had returned home. In the result the jury acquitted the prisoner and no evidence was offered on the indictment for common assault and therefore the prisoner was discharged. **1 Jun 1901 The Times**