

Trade Jealousy

At the Faringdon Police Court last week, Charles Kent, baker, Wanborough, was summoned for assaulting John Taylor, grocer, &c., Watchfield, on the 8th last.

The complainant and defendant were, it appeared from the evidence, rival bread sellers, the defendant offering his bread at ½d per loaf cheaper. Complainant caused two of the defendant's loaves to be purchased, and weighed them; finding them to be of short weight, he informed his customers thereof, and this coming to the knowledge of defendant caused him to be somewhat irritated. On the 8th inst. he called at complainant's shop and asked if he wanted any bread; the latter declined becoming a purchaser and requested defendant to leave the shop. This, however, he refused to do, and complainant then went round the counter to put him and his basket out, but directly he stooped down to take up the basket, the defendant seized him by the throat and forced him back behind the counter into his sitting room. Here the complainant rallied and managed to eject defendant from the room into the shop, tearing his great coat up the centre of the back as far as the collar. A truce was then declared, and defendant eventually left the shop peacefully.

Defendant stated that complainant first began the row by attempting to kick him out; he also retorted that complainant's bread was likewise short weight. Mr. Haines appeared for complainant - Fined £1 and £1 13s. costs. Paid.

Mr. Haines applied for defendant to be bound over to keep the peace, but the Bench declined to do this.

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