



Labourers Steal Stones

Wilts Summer Assizes

Thomas Whiting, Wm. Ponting, and William Hillier, labourers, were indicted for stealing 19 cart loads of stone, value 19s., the property of John Harris, builder, at Swindon, on the 22nd of June.

Mr Ravenhill prosecuted, and Mr Snowden defended the prisoners.

The prisoners were employed by Mr Harris to dig out the cellars of a house he had a contract for building at Swindon. They were to have 1 1/2d a yard for the excavation, and were to save the large stones and sand, but to take away the rubble. They sold 19 cart loads of the best stones to Mr Page of Wroughton, for 19s. When prosecutor spoke to them about the small quantity of good stones they had got out, they all said they had saved every stone that was of value. The jury found Ponting and Whiting guilty, but acquitted Hillier. Mr Ravenhill, on behalf of the prosecutor, recommended the prisoners to mercy, and his lordship sentenced them to a month's hard labour.

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