

Saturday 16th June 1866

NORTHAMPTON DIVISION PETTY SESSIONS. Magistrates' Chamber, Saturday last. —Before the Rev. Robert Isham (in the chair) John Nethercoat, Esq. Sir Henry Gunning Bart. H O Nethercote, Esq., and General Bouverie.

Unlawfully Killing Game.—Robert Hawkes, of Northampton, was summoned by Mr. Simpson, gamekeeper. of Overstone, with having unlawfully killed some game, Overstone, on the 12th May.—Mr. A. B. Markham appeared for the prosecutor.—John Denton, of Moulton, labourer, said he was employed by Mr. Beasley, and was engaged on the day in question clearing a hedge, when he heard the report of gun. On looking along the road he saw the defendant running away, with gun in his hand, after carrier's van, the property of Briggs, the Kettering carrier. He then saw another man into the field from the turnpike. When the man was in the field, he (witness) saw him stoop, pick up something, and put it into his pocket. After the man came out of the field went along the turnpike to join Hawkes. He was sure that the man who went into the field was the one who sat by Hawkes in front of the van.—Stephen Denton, labourer, of Molton, in Mr. Beasley's employ, said saw, at about twelve o'clock of the day in question, two men sitting on the tail-board of a van. He heard the report of gun, and after seeing the defendant run away he saw another man into a wheat field, as far 10 yards into it, and pick something. Ongoing into the wheat field, subsequently, he found some pheasants feathers on the spot where the man had picked something up.—Mr. Simpson, gamekeeper to Lord Overstone, deposed to finding the pheasants feather, which were undeniably those of a hen.

The defendant said he was never in that part on that day, and no one ever saw him with gun that day. He ought not to suffer from what other men did. Let every tub stand upon its own bottom. He was already on bail to appear at the next Sessions. He was never there, and he could bring witnesses to prove that he was not. It appeared, however, that he had had a week to get proper defence, and also to bring his witnesses, but had failed to do anything.—Superintendent Chambers said, that during the last ten years, home and abroad, the defendant had never been out of a scrape. —As the magistrates were consulting, defendant said hoped they would easy with him, as besides being out on bail now he had a wife and family.—The magistrates said the was clearly proved against the defendant and fined him £2, with 13s. 6d. expenses, or in default, six weeks' imprisonment —He accepted the latter alternative, still persisting in his innocence.