

## WOUNDING AT TWYWELL.

George Hawkes (22), shoemaker, and Joseph Hawkes (18), labourer, were charged with feloniously wounding one George Wilfrid Currin, a police-constable, whilst in the execution of his duty, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm, at Twywell, on the 19th August, 1880.—Mr. Lindsell, instructed by Mr. Hunnybun, prosecuted.—George Wilfrid Currin said on the 19th August he was on duty at Cranford in a field of peas. He observed prisoners in a field about 200 yards off. They saw him when about 40 yards from him. They both ran off in the direction of Finedon, and he went after them. He said, "I know you, George," but he did not at that time know the other prisoner. He noticed a rabbit drop from the pocket of George, and soon after overtook them near the railway bridge at Twywell. He seized George Hawkes by the collar and asked him what he had got. His pockets were bulky, and he said, "Hit the ———, Joe." Joseph then struck him several severe blows on the head, knocking him down, and struck him several times whilst on the ground. George also struck him with another stick. Witness found he could not get up, and said if they would spare his life he would give up. George said, "No, you ———, you won't follow us again, I know." The stick produced was similar to one he was struck with, which was broken at the time. He became insensible. When he recovered consciousness prisoners were gone. He found he had eight wounds on his head, from which blood flowed freely; five of the wounds were 2½ inches long. He kept his bed for a fortnight, and Mr. Dryland attended him for two months.—In cross-examining witness, George Hawkes denied striking him; he never had any stick. The other prisoner also cross-examined witness.—Chris. Blackman said he was a Police-sergeant at Kettering. He went to Cranford on the 9th August and found Police-constable Currin in bed with his head bound up. From what he told him he went to the railway bridge, near which he found a great deal of blood and marks of a struggle, and also two pieces of stick with fresh blood marks on them.—The witness Currin here showed the marks on his head to the jury.—Thomas Webster, a police-constable stationed at Finedon, said he heard of the assault and went in search of the prisoners. He went to their house, but was unable to find them. On the 20th November he saw them in the Old Green-lane. As soon as they saw witness they ran away. He caught George Hawkes, and charged him with the assault. He said "What do you want with Joseph; he had nothing to do with it." On the way to Wellingborough, prisoner said "This would never have happened if it had been you instead of Currin." Joseph was taken in custody on the following night, secreted in a house at Twywell.—George Hawkes disputed the evidence of the last witness, and said that he told him at the time they never had committed the assault. He denied that witness cautioned him, and asserted that he did not say three words all the way to Wellingborough.—George Hawkes, in addressing the jury, said he never struck Currin, whom he did not recognise as a policeman, and who struck him with his staff.—Witness Currin, re-called, denied that he was able to use his staff, and said it was only with difficulty he drew it at all.—Prisoner, continuing, said he had nothing with him.—His Lordship said the only difficulty that suggested itself to him was one rather of law than fact. There is a Statute under which a constable can, on a highway or any public place, search any one whom he has reason to suspect of going over land for the purposes of poaching, or of having in their possession anything which should lead him to that suspicion. In the Statute there is a clause which says the word "game" should include rabbits. The constable would be acting quite legally in searching the prisoners if he observed their pockets to be bulky, and if they resisted him and struck him it would be an illegal act.—The jury returned a verdict of Guilty.—One previous conviction was proved against Joseph Hawkes, and his brother was found to have been several times convicted.—The former was sentenced to five years' penal servitude, and the latter to seven years' penal servitude.