

COUNTY POLICE OFFICE.

SATURDAY.—Before the Rev. H. J. Hoskyns (in the chair), H. L. Powys Keck, Esq., M. Turner, Esq., and Major Knight.

BELGRAVE. — *Timothy Tarry*, framework-knitter, and *John Bruce*, dyer, Leicester, were charged with stealing, on the 1st of February, two ducks, the property of John Astill, of Belgrave.—George Loomes said he was waggoner to the prosecutor, who was a farmer living at Mowmaker hill. Ducks were kept there, which he attended to. On the 1st of February he saw them safe between twelve and one o'clock. He saw the prisoners between two and three o'clock, about three or four hundred yards from the premises, in a field. They had nothing with them then. About the same time he missed two ducks, and ran after the prisoners, and caught them on Mr. Marshall's farm. He told Tarry he had been taking some ducks, and he said he had not, but that the man who had taken the ducks was on forward. Told him he had something to do with it or he would not have run away. When they got into Mr. Warner's field Tarry threw a large stone at him, and said if he followed him any further he would smash him. When they got a few fields further he threw another large stone at him. When they got into the Abbey Meadow, Bruce was waiting for him. A heap of brick ends and dross was lying by the water side, and they stood and threw at him. He followed them to Leicester, and they parted. Tarry ran into Dolman's public house, the Earl of Stamford, in Belgrave-gate, where he lost him. Was sure the prisoners were the men. After he got home again the ducks were brought to him by Mrs. Leake. They were dead then.—Alice Leake said she lived about eighty yards from Mr. Astill's premises. On February the 1st she saw the prisoners and two other men, between ten and eleven in the morning, on the road going towards Thurcaston. Between two and half-past she saw the prisoners, coming out of the field in which Mr. Astill's farm premises are situated. Each appeared to have something like a bundle. About two minutes afterwards she saw that each had a duck. They put their backs against a wall, put the ducks between their legs and pulled their necks out. They then carried the ducks across the road, got over a gate into a ploughed field, and threw the ducks into the ditch. She was running down to the lodge, and was about fifty yards from it at the time. She told Loomes and the others who were in the yard. The prisoners went on towards Mr. Marshall's farm, and she saw Loomes follow them. She was sure the prisoners were the same two persons. The ducks were got out of the ditch by a labourer, and she carried them into Loomes's house.—P.S. Hickinbottom said he apprehended the prisoners, who were together, on Tuesday morning in Gallowtree-gate, and told them they were charged with stealing some ducks and fowls from Thurcaston and Mowmaker-hill. They wanted to know when it was, and he told them it was on Friday, February 1. Bruce said he could prove where he was, he was catching "strollers." Tarry did not make any reply. Brought them to the County Office.—Inspector Clarke said he received the prisoners in custody last Tuesday, and told them the charge. Bruce said they did not have two lots; they only had one. Replied that they threw Mr. Astill's ducks into the ditch when they were pursued. Tarry said they were putting it on to them rather thick to charge them with both lots, but he supposed they would bring witnesses to prove it. On Wednesday they were remanded, and Tarry asked him to get the case disposed of that day, and they would plead guilty, and Bruce, when appealed to by Tarry, said the same.—The prisoners pleaded guilty.—Six weeks' hard labour.