

1873

John Walker - Convicted for Stealing Onions

Trial Documents 4, 5 and 6: Cooper's and Constable's Evidence

EVIDENCE

ROBERT COOPER

I am a Market Gardener at Beeston Sandy. On the 13th September I was sitting on a hedge of my field. I had some onions pulled and laying in heaps. I saw the prisoner John Walker (who had been working for me but who had been discharged the day before) he was gleaning onions when I first saw him - I wathced him - he picked up solitary onions and when he came to the heaps he picked a peck from each heap and then kicked the heap with his foot so that they fell level and no one could see the heap had been disturbed - he put the onion in a sack. In this way he stole about two bushels of my onions - he then tied up the sack and put it on his shoulder - came out of the field across the Hitchen Road and went across another field in the direct way of his home. I went up ro him took him by his collar and took the onions of his back. I told him I should prosecute him. He asked me to forgive him - he said he thought I did not mean to carry any more onions out of the field but he must have known better as there were 40 or 50 bushels. I gave information to the police and obtained a warrant for the prisoner's apprehension at once. The two bushels of Onions were worth 4 shillings to 5 shillings.

Robert Cooper

Taken upon oath before us

1st April 1874

R. H. Lindsell