



Ferocious Fire

Last Tuesday afternoon soon after two o'clock, a fire broke out on the premises of the Rev Mr Boulby, at Castle Eaton, and which threatened the destruction of the large farm yards and houses in the village.

It is supposed that the fire arose from burning the carcass of a pig, about two hours previously, some fire being discovered in the thatch of a building 18 yards distant from the place where the pig was burnt. The fire rapidly extended to and destroyed two ricks of hay about 20 tons, a rick of clover, and 6 straw ricks and one bean rick, the barn, which was brick and tiled, and contained a quantity of threshed barley, escaped destruction, although the fire caught it. The flames then swept across a narrow road to the farm yard of John Archer, esq, and which contained a great number of hay and corn ricks and other valuable agricultural property, where two wheat ricks containing about 200 sacks of wheat were destroyed.

Engines arrived from Chicklade, Highworth and Fairford, and a small engine from the Mansion of Hussey Freke, esq, the High Sheriff, and at about half past five o'clock the powerful fire engine from Swindon, under the charge of Mr Supt Haynes. Fortunately, there was an abundant supply of water, and the Swindon engine having a quantity of suction pipe, was run near to the Thames, from whence it kept the other engines supplied with water.

The weather was very calm. Had it not been so, the destruction of farm produce must have been immense, the fire having been only mastered when it had reached within three yards of a beaurick, which formed part of a long line of corn ricks. But for this, the chief part of the village, with the farm houses and yards in it, would probably have been destroyed, as the means at hand for arresting the progress of the flames would have been utterly inadequate. All the property destroyed was insured in the Sun Fire Office.

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