



A mother nursing her child

### **Amicable Neighbours – An Amusing Defendant**

Mrs Eliza Rogers was summoned by Sarah Jane Stanmore, a girl, for having assaulted her on the 12th inst

Both parties reside at West Harnham, and it appeared from complainant's statement that on the day named she, on the invitation of one of the defendant's neighbours, went into a yard to which several persons, defendant being amongst the number, had the right of access. Complainant was nursing a baby, and in order to give herself a little ease, she rested her foot upon the box in which defendant was accustomed to deposit her ashes. This seemed to have roused the indignation of defendant, who came out of her house, and according to complainant, was most insulting to her. She then struck complainant and pushed her with such violence as to nearly throw the baby out of her arms. Defendant, while admitting that she pushed complainant, altogether denied using the language complained of, and in a long, rambling story, complained that some persons in the parish had circulated a malicious statement about her, and the complainant had annoyed her by repeating this story. It was too bad for her to tell the Bench what it was, but she could assure them that it was very annoying. She could scarcely leave her house without hearing some insulting remark applied to her. She did not want to offend people; all she wanted was peace. If her neighbours would let her alone she should never give offence to any of them, but when insulting remarks were applied to her it was not to be wondered at if she lost her temper. Georgina Dear corroborated the complainant's statement as to the assault, and in the end the Bench adjourned the case for a week in order that the defendant's husband might attend for the purpose of being bound over in his wife's behalf for her to keep the peace for six months. They also condemned the defendant in the costs –10s. At the same time, the Chairman cautioned the complainant and her witness

not to let their tongues run too freely, remarking that he felt if the case had been thoroughly gone into it would have been found that they had in some way contributed to the disturbance.

**Western Gazette, 22 June 1883**