

# Anglo-Celt

Thursday 23rd June 1853

## GEESE STOLEN FROM BENISON FAMILY

Matthew Mulvey, a lad of about 17 years of age, was put forward, charged with the robbery of six geese, the property of James Benison, Esq., of Ballyconnell.

Head Constable John Allen sworn and examined by Mr. B. Armstrong, recollects the 8th February last: "I heard of geese having being stolen from Mr. Benison. A man called Dan Reilly came with me to a woman's house called Finlay. We found there the bodies of two geese stewing in the pot. We went then to Mr Latimer's house and found there the head of a goose and two feet. Reilly said that that was the head of one of the geese that was stolen from Mr Benison. It was a Poland goose's head; I knew nothing more of the case."

Mary Finlay sworn and examined by Mr. B. Armstrong. Lives in Ballyconnell and knows the last witness. "He came to my house in February last. I had two geese stewing on the fire. I told him I bought the geese from a boy, the prisoner in the deck. I bought three geese from him. I sent out one of them with a little girl to sell. She sold it to Mr Latimer. The girl's name is Anne Reilly.

Court: "What did you give for the four geese?"

Witness: "I gave 3s. 9d for them, and I got 1s. 2d. For the one I sold. The prisoner told me his name was Maguire. I heard after that Mr. Benison lost some geese.

Court: "Was it in the daylight or at night you bought the geese?"

Witness: "It was in the day light"

Prisoner: "She never asked me my name, nor did I tell her my name was Maguire."

Anne Reilly Sworn and knows the last witness. "She is my mistress. A boy brought geese to my mistress's house to sell. I do not know the boy. My mistress sent me out with one of the geese to sell. I sold her to Mr Latimer for 1s. 2d."

J. Latimer sworn: "I live in Ballyconnell. I remember buying a goose from the last witness. It was on Tuesday I bought the goose. Head Constable Allen came to my house. He found the feet of the goose in the house. Mrs. Latimer told me not to buy the goose, I would not have bought it were it not for the girl telling me that the goose belonged to her mother. I knew her father and mother to be honest people. If I knew the goose belonged to her mistress, I would not have bought her."

Court: "Bring back the last witness"

When the last witness came back, his worship asked her why she said the goose belonged to her mother?"

Witness: "My mistress told me to say so."

Court: "Call Mrs. Finlay"

On Mrs. Finlay being asked why she told the girl to say the goose belonged to her mother, she said she didn't recollect having done so.

She only told her to sell the goose, and she would not have sold her, were it not for Ash Wednesday being the next day.

Daniel Reilly examined by Mr. B. Armstrong: "I am in the employment of Mr. Benison. There were six geese stolen from my master in February last, the geese were on the lands of Carinmore. I went with Head Constable Allen to Finlay's house and the feet and head of goose in the house. I knew the feet and head of the goose found belong to Mr Benison, as I had a mark on the feet. There was a large lump on the head and there was a hole on the web and another web was split. I do not know the prisoner."

The case here closed, and his worship explained the case to the jury, and after a short time, they returned the verdict of not guilty.

