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Gillingham. Dorset.
30 December 1882.

Sir,

With reference to the case against Bennett which stands for Trial at the Winter Sessions at Devizes on Wednesday next the ^{3rd Decr: the charge on which he stands committed is the stealing one napkin - one hat - Two dollars and one camp chair - your Honor as regards the chair there is the identification by Sergeant Riordan and the admission of the prisoner of having taken it - this may be sufficient as regards this item of charge - as regards the other articles, from what I}

can gather it seems clear that
a defence of gift by some
member of your family or by
some other servant of your
Establishment will be attempted
to be setup. I know of no way
of meeting this except by means
of your personal testimony
identifying the property as yours
and that you have never given
the articles away to any servant
or authorized any servant to
part with them to the Prisoner
or to any one else. I can quite
understand that it may be
distasteful to you to attend, but
I can see no way of meeting
this kind of defence without

your personal testimony.
I hope therefore, that you will
be able to attend at Devizes
on Wednesday by about 10 o'clock
a.m. as, after the Criminal
Business has once opened
there is no certainty as to
when the case will come on -
If the Prisoner can prove that
the articles (other than the
chain to which alone his
admission extends) have been
in his possession for 3 or 4
months, he is under no
obligation to account for them
and the Court would, probably,
not then direct an acquittal.
Yours, Dic^t R. D. F.
Rushmore your obedt. Servt
Salisbury. Robert D. Frazer

of the Dorset Police and the
treason why that count was not
included was because Sergeant
Riordan had not Mr. A. Pitt's
authority to prosecute Bennett
for stealing them.

It strikes me the best way
will be to tell the prisoner's solicitor
that unless he pleads "Guilty" to the
theft of all the things with which
he is charged he will be committed
again on the charge of stealing
Mr. A. Pitt's shirts. there is ample
evidence of that. I cannot swear to
the napkin. the whole thing has
been badly managed, I thought
you would have looked into the
whole matter and communicated
with the Haulley Police before it
was too late. A.P.

I have telegraphed to you to come here tomorrow
and I will have the Haulley Police here.

Telegraph Station,
Dorthead - $\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

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Rushmore,
Salisbury.

31st December 1882.

Sir.

My son Mr. Alex. Pitt,
will attend at Devines and will
prove that the shirts in George
Bennett's possession are his and
that he has never given them to
any servant or to anyone else.

Bennett was not committed
on this count at the Magistrates'
Meeting and it is important he
should be tried for this. It will
be a very disgracefull affair if
the prisoner escapes as the evidence
is ample to convict him of all the
charges. I think you should come

from
yours

here and see the Handley Police (Constable Long). The Wiltshire Police will do all in their power to obtain an acquittal of the prisoner because the matter was not placed in their hands. If he cannot be tried for the theft of my son's (Mr. A. Pitt's) shirts he should be brought before the Magistrates and committed for this offence. The Hat has my son's name in it. (Mr. Douglas Pitt.). he is under age but Sergeant Riordan heard him say he had lost his hat before it was found at Bennetts.

My eldest son (Mr. Alex. Pitt.) had

his shirts marked by Sergeant Riordan. Riordan will swear that they are the same shirts and that he marked them. My son will swear that he never gave any shirts to any one. It is therefore important that he should be committed on this count.

You are aware that there was an enormous quantity of table linen found at Bennetts which he must have stolen but which cannot be identified.

I shall be at home tomorrow and if you send for the Handley Police they could meet you here.

It would be very inconvenient for me to go to Devines.

There are eight shirts of Mr. Alex. Pitt now in possession

~~Copied~~

4.11.1882

Rushmore
Salisbury

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General Pitt Rivers begs to inform the Constable of the Dorset Police at Handley that a Camp Arm chair has been missing from Rushmore for some time, and that, in consequence of suspicions, Mr. Riordan visited the house of George Bennett of Woodcote this evening (4. Nov. 1882) and

there saw a Chain which
tallies so much with
descriptions afforded by
several persons of the
one missing here, that ^{as}
General Pitt Rivers thinks
it necessary that the
matter should be placed
in the hands of the
Police, in order that
search ~~for the same~~
may be made.

A. P. R.

4. Nov. 1882

several other things have been
missing and various other people
have been suspected