

STRATFORD-ON-AVON COUNTY PETTY
SESSIONS.—MONDAY.

Before A. Hodgson, Esq, C.M.G., and Major Fortescue.

A HEARTLESS FELLOW.—*Thomas Dodd*, lately residing at Alderminster, was charged on a warrant with having deserted his wife and children on the 1st September, whereby they had become chargeable to the common fund of the Stratford-on-Avon Union, and pleaded not guilty.—Mr. T. E. Beck, one of the relieving officers of the above Union, proved that the prisoner's wife and family were living with her father at Crimscoats. On the 1st September last, the relief given by the Guardians amounted to 10s. 6d., the original order being 10s. 8½d., but since then the bread had sunk in price. Witness had not seen the prisoner since he was released from gaol, and had never received any money from him since the making of the order in March last. The total sum expended in the case was £13 13s. Witness had been told by several farmers in the neighbourhood that prisoner could obtain plenty of employment if he liked to look after it.—Mr. Warden, who prosecuted, said he did not ask for an order, but hoped the Bench would grant a commitment under the Vagrancy Act.—Prisoner said that since he had returned from gaol he had provided a comfortable home for his wife and family, but they refused to live with him and would not let him have his goods.—The Bench said they were perfectly satisfied with the evidence adduced. Prisoner was a very foolish man, and they were afraid a very wicked man. Having married a wife he was bound to protect her through sickness and health, but he had not done so. He had defied the law, and since his release from gaol two months ago, he had never attempted to assist his wife and family. As magistrates they were compelled to do their duty, and would sentence him to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.