

Shrivenham

Fire. A most disastrous fire broke out on the premises know as "*Penny Hook's Farm*," the property of the Rev G.W. Murray, and occupied by Mr Henry Richens, on Friday morning, between nine and ten o'clock. The cause of the fire is unknown, but is supposed to have originated by sparks from the chimney falling on the thatch. Owing to a strong north-east wind blowing at the time, all hopes of saving the place was abandoned from the commencement, and willing hands set to work to rescue the furniture, etc, nearly all of which was roughly removed. By twelve o'clock the house was a mass of ruins, only the bare walls being left to indicate where once stood a happy and prosperous homestead. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Highworth Fire Brigade (under Captain Hill) which was early on the spot, the grim element raged fury until the work of destruction was complete. There was a good supply of water from a stream running about 300 yards from the scene of the fire, which kept the engine well at work. The house standing some distance from the outbuildings, ricks, etc, they remained intact. Fortunately both owner and occupier were fully insured.