

ALC/D/009

NORTHAMPTON MERCURY

December 25th 1830

Column 4

THE MEANING OF SWING

Mr Editor,

As the signature 'Swing' to the many threatening letters, received by persons, appears to be of an ambiguous nature, may I be allowed to offer you my idea of its signification. In the hay season, the mowers generally cut the grass in parties of from 3 & 4 to 7 & 8 men, who have a head man or leader. Occasionally, they stop to sharpen the scythe. When this is done, and the men ready to go on, the leader calls out 'swing' and the whole party proceeds with cutting down the grass. The definition of the word 'swing' may, therefore, be considered as 'one an all' or one and all have agreed to cut you down.

W. R.