



Crime and Punishment

Calne

Burglary of Boots

Edward Weston, a shoemaker of Calne, was on Wednesday last brought before the Rev. F. Goddard, charged with having, on the night of the 30th Oct., entered the dwelling-house of James Perkins, in Silver Street and stolen two pairs of boots of the value of £1 6s; the prisoner having been remanded from the Friday previous.

The son of the prosecutor (Jonathan Perkins), stated that on Wednesday morning the 31st October, he came down stairs and found that the house had been entered during the night, and on making search he discovered that two pairs of boots were missing.

He immediately gave information to the police, who lost no time in forwarding information to the various police stations respecting the prisoner, who was strongly suspected of being the offender. One of these information's reached the right place (Bath), where it was discovered the prisoner had pledged the boots on the morning after the robbery.

Mr. Sayers, pawnbroker, of Bath, deposed that the prisoner had pawned the two pairs of boots produced early on the morning of the 31st ult; and these boots were identified by the witness, Jonathan Perkins, as his father's property. The prisoner, in reply, said he had not been in Bath for a long time and that Mr. Sayers was mistaken as to his identity, and that he knew nothing of the robbery. Inspector Wiltshire, however, here stated that the prisoner since he had been in custody had told him that on the night of the robbery he had met a man named Townsend, who said that if he (the prisoner) would keep dark he would tell him where two pairs of boots could be got. He left the prisoner, and in a short time returned home with the boots and offered to give him 5s on the morrow if he said nothing about it. Inspector Wiltshire added that he had made enquiries respecting this statement of the prisoner's and had found it utterly untrue. After committing the above robbery, the prisoner kept from the town during the day time only dropping in at night; he thus managed to elude the vigilance of the police (who from the first believed him to be the guilty party) till Friday Nov 2 when he was apprehended at the back of a lone cottage about a mile from Calne, by P.C Bristow. This is the second burglary which has taken place in Calne during the past twelve months; and it reflects great credit upon the police stationed here, that in both cases the delinquents were speedily discovered and brought to justice. The prisoner was in this case committed to take his trial at the next March Assizes at Devizes.

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