



## *Extraordinary Charge of False Pretences*

WARMINSTER – At the Warminster Police-court on Saturday, before Mr G. L. Lopes, a man named James Haynes, of Codford, but formerly station master at Holt, was brought up on remand on the charge of having, by false pretences, obtained a leg of mutton, value 4s. 7d., and 14s. 5d. in money, from Ann Langley, butcher, Warminster, on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult.- Mr G. B. Mundy stated that he was manager of the Wilts and Dorset Bank at Warminster. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of August the prisoner came to the bank and asked him to give him a cheque-book. Witness declined to do so at first, as the prisoner was a stranger and had no account with the bank. Prisoner then represented that he had an account with the branch at Salisbury and that he was acting for the Wilts Friendly Society. He was desirous, he said, of sending off a cheque from Warminster and asked witness to let him have a small cheque-book, so that he might draw on the branch at Salisbury. Witness then gave him a book containing twelve cheques, for which he paid 1s. He did not open an account but told witness that he was going to live in Warminster and would then open an account. The prisoner gave no proofs that his representations were correct. Three cheques had since been presented to the bank and he declined to cash them because the prisoner had no account there. Witness wrote to the Salisbury branch and asked if the prisoner had an account there and he received a reply in the negative. Prisoner told witness that he had a sum of £60 to receive that day and in all probability he should not require the book. He mentioned the name of the person he was expecting the money from, but witness found that the person mentioned did not owe him any money. There were three cheques presented to the bank and another cheque was tendered to Mr Young, station-master, but he believed that was subsequently made good. – Thomas Harris deposed that he was an apprentice, living with Miss Langley, butcher, Warminster. On the 30<sup>th</sup> August, the prisoner came to the shop and ordered a leg of mutton and asked for it to be sent to No. 1, Boreham-terrace and that he would pay the boy for it. Witness sent the joint and the prisoner sent back a cheque for £1 to pay for it, together with a note saying he would call for the change. The leg of mutton came to 4s. 7d.- Joseph Curtis proved taking the joint and the prisoner tendering a cheque to pay for it. – Sidney Curtis said the prisoner called at Miss Langley's shop and asked for the change of the cheque he had previously sent and Miss Harris, who was in charge of the cash-box that day, gave the prisoner 14s. 5d. change. – Emily Kirk Harris corroborated the above statement and P.C. Maggs proved apprehending the prisoner at the Bath Railway Station on Wednesday.- Prisoner, who with no defence, was committed to take his trial at the next quarter sessions, bail being allowed if the prisoner could get two sureties of £25 each and £50 himself. The prisoner was in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company for many years and left his position as station-master at Holt through a charge of embezzlement being preferred against him, for which he under-went a term of imprisonment.

*(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1886)*