



Devizes Borough Sessions

At our Borough Sessions, which took place on Saturday last, there were three cases only for trial, in which, it is satisfactory to know, the parties criminally implicated, were strangers to the town - a circumstance the Recorder took occasion to allude to in his charge to the Grand Jury, as confirmatory of the orderly reputation the borough has for many years enjoyed.

The first prisoner tried was George Davis, (a native of Shropshire) who was charged with stealing a watch, on Saturday the 31st January, from the shop of Mr. Hart, Silversmith and Jeweller, in the Brittox. The facts connected with this robbery were, it will be remembered, given in our paper immediately after its occurrence. They were briefly these:- Davis, between 8 and 9 o'clock in the evening mentioned, went into the shop of the prosecutor, which had been left in charge of his son (a lad of about 16 years old), and under the pretence of being desirous of purchasing some shirt studs, induced the youth to turn his back to him for the purpose of reaching the ornaments from the window, when, it would appear, he picked up a watch from the counter, where a large number were lying preparatory to their being put away in a place of safety until the following Monday. He was about to leave the shop when Mr. Hart came in, and observing that he seemed somewhat embarrassed, immediately suspecting that all was not right. He accordingly followed the man, who led him chase from street to street, until at length he was captured by a young man named Thomas Selwood, in Sheep Street, where he was observed to throw something into the yard in front of the Presbyterian Chapel, and which proved to be a silver watch belonging to the prosecutor.

Mr. Ball. (appeared as counsel for the prisoner) exerted some ingenuity to instill into the minds of the Jury the probability of the witnesses being mistaken as to the identity of the thief.

The facts, however, were too conclusive to allow of much doubt upon the matter; a verdict of guilty was returned, and the prisoner sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment.

Obadiah Bailey was indicted for stealing a quantity of barley from the Devizes wharf, the property of Mr. Richard Chandler of Pewsey. A legal objection, taken by Mr. Ball in favor of the prisoner, obtained his acquittal.

Isaac May and Samuel Griffin were sentenced to one month's imprisonment each, and to be once whipped, for stealing 3 bundles of wood, the property of Messrs. Clark.

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