

Robbing A Till In Fisherton

Salisbury Petty Sessions, Monday. Before the Mayor, Mr. P Attwood, and Mr. T. W. Gilbert.

William Green was brought up on remand, charged with having stolen a quantity of silver and copper money, the property of Mr. Charles Luther, provision dealer in Fisherton. Mrs. Luther deposed that on the preceding Thursday morning the prisoner came into the shop to buy a halfpenny worth of dates, and tendered a shilling in payment. She gave him the change, and he left the shop. Shortly afterwards she was called into the shop to give change for a shilling, when she missed the till and its contents. The till contained two or three shillings in silver, and from 40s to 45s in coppers. She identified a crooked halfpenny, an old penny, and a bone button, all of which were produced, and which she said she had had in the till for several years. George Churchill, a policeman on the Great Western Railway, stationed at Westbury, deposed that on Thursday morning he received a telegraphic message, in consequence of which he detained the prisoner, on his arrival by train at Westbury from Salisbury. He was riding in a third class carriage, and had a ticket for Bristol. Witness took from the prisoner a handkerchief containing a quantity of copper money, which he afterwards handed over to Sergeant White. Sergeant White deposed that he was at the Great Western Station, at Fisherton, on Thursday morning and saw the prisoner take some coppers from a handkerchief to pay his fare. His suspicions were excited, and having afterwards ascertained that Mr. Luther had been robbed, he telegraphed to Westbury, and ordered the prisoner to be detained. He went to Westbury on the next train, and found the prisoner at the station in the custody of the last witness. He charged him with stealing a till containing from 30s. to £2 in copper money, from the shop of Mr. Luther, near the Railway Station at Fisherton, to which he replied, "I have stolen nothing out of no shop in Salisbury."

Witness said, "I saw you in Salisbury this morning," and he replied "No."

Witness searched him, and found in his pockets 1s 6d in silver and 11s 2d in copper. In a handkerchief which he received from the policeman Churchill, he found £2 10s 9¾d in copper, including the penny and halfpenny spoken to by Mrs. Luther. The button which she had described was also in the handkerchief. The till was picked up, after the robbery, at the back of the Nursery. The prisoner said nothing in defence. Superintendent Caldow, in reply to a question from the Bench, said that he was almost certain that when he was employed at Portsmouth Convict Prison the prisoner was a convict there.

The prisoner: "It is false, I assure you. I was never in a prison in my life."

The Bench committed the prisoner to take his trial at the City Quarter Sessions. The prisoner said: "I should be glad to have my sentence now. I will plead guilty."

Mr. Gilbert: "We shall not deal with the case. You must go for trial."

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