



Old Man Stabs Rural Policeman

William Shrimpton, 69 years of age, was indicted for stabbing James Rebbeck at Marlbro', with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm.

Mr. Merewether was counsel for the prosecution.

It appeared that on the 1st of August, Rebbeck (one of the rural police) having brought a prisoner to Marlbro', was taking some refreshment with another policeman at a public house. The prisoner was sitting at another part of the room, when all at once he jumped up, and, putting his left arm in Rebbeck's face, said, "D—n your eyes, I'll do for you." He then stabbed him in the left arm with a pocket-knife.

The prisoner, in his defence, said he had fallen down some years ago and injured his brain and had never been well in the head since; he was 69 years of age; was a pensioner, and had the interest of £400 left him by his father.

The learned Judge, in summing up, observed, that the prisoner appeared to have committed the act under a state of great excitement caused by excess of drinking; and he had a letter from Dr. Somerset, which stated that the prisoner's mind was at times entirely lost. It did not appear that any previous ill-will existed between the parties, and if the jury were convinced of this, they would return a verdict for an assault only.

The Jury having found the prisoner guilty of an assault, the Judge expressed his regret that a man arrived at his years, and formerly a soldier, too, in his Majesty's service, should at the close of his life be brought before the public on so serious a charge; but he trusted that he would find such moments of comfort in the sobriety that would be enforced during the confinement to which he would be subjected, that upon his return to liberty he would spend the remainder of his days in a more temperate and steady way. The prisoner was then sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

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