



Crime and Punishment

Minety

Court Case

David Timbrill

David Timbrill was indicted for stealing a cheque from a post letter at Malmesbury, on the seventeenth of March.

Mr Poulden and Mr H T Cole prosecuted for the post office. The prisoner asked if any gentleman would defend him, and pulled some money out of his pocket, but Mr W M Cooke undertook to defend him gratuitously.

It appeared that the prisoner was a labourer at Minety, where Mr Read, a farmer, lived. Read was in the habit of sending carcasses of pigs up to Mr Keats, a meat salesman, in Newgate Market. He had sent up five carcasses on Friday, and expected to receive a cheque on Monday the 18th March, but as it did not arrive, he made enquiries, and found the prisoner had gone to the post office at Malmesbury on Sunday morning, and inquired for a letter for Mr Read, of Minety. Keats had sent a letter with a cheque for £9 4s, directed to Read. The postmaster at Malmesbury gave the prisoner the letter, and the cheque was changed at the Cirencester Bank on the Monday morning. The prisoner was apprehended at his work in the course of the week.

The jury retired for some time, and at length found the prisoner guilty.

Sentence, 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

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