



Crime and Punishment

Minety

Court Case

Mark Field

MAGISTERIAL, Saturday July 28, before Thos. Luce and S B Brooke, Esqrs.

Mark Field, of Charlton, labourer, was brought up under a warrant charged with a ruffianly assault on a labourer named John Price, of Minety, on Sunday the 22nd of July inst., thereby occasioning him grievous bodily harm.

From the evidence given by the brother of the injured man (who is hardly out of danger) and two other witnesses it would appear that on Sunday in question the prisoner was sitting in front of the Horse and Groom Inn at Charlton, that John Price on coming out of the public house (where he had some beer) had touched prisoner on the shoulder and told him to get up. The prisoner then jumped up and attempted to strike the injured man John Price, but was restrained by his companions.

Subsequently however, and without provocation, he struck Price a violent blow with his clinched fist on his chin, and Price fell on his back, causing the blood to stream from his ears and mouth. He was so severely injured that he lay in a state of insensibility for several days, and is still in a dangerous state.

After some deliberation the prisoner was remanded until Wednesday the 1st August at the Petty Sessions.

PETTY SESSIONS, Wednesday, 1st August 1866. Before P A Lovell, chairman, Sir H Pollen, Bart., Major Perry Keene, T Luce, and S B Brooke, Esq.

Mark Field, of Charlton, was brought up in custody on remand, charged with having committed a brutal assault on John Price, at Charlton, on the 22nd July.

Thomas Price, brother to the injured man, and two young men named Hatton and Meek proved the assault, and Dr Salter, of Malmesbury, stated that he was sent for to attend the man John Price, that he was suffering from a blow on the chin and from concussion of the base of the skull, apparently from a fall, and that it was not till Saturday last, the 28th inst., that he considered him out of danger.

Convicted and sentenced to 6 weeks' imprisonment.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 6 August 1866