



A Dishonest Baker Charged with Embezzlement: Lenient Punishment

At the Warminster Police Court, on Thursday, before Captain Southey (in the chair) and Mr. T. H. Cookson, Alfred Tom Park, baker, late of Monkton Deverill, was charged with embezzling from John Maxfield, baker and miller, of Monkton Deverill, sums of £1 12s 11½d. and £2 8s. 3½d. received by him on account of his master.

Mr. Maxfield said prisoner had been in his employ for five or six years, his duties being to deliver bread, take payments, and pay the money to Mrs. Maxfield. He was supposed to account for what he had taken every week, but sometimes he ran on for a fortnight or more. Finding some of his customers were getting in arrear, he asked him the reason, and on prosecutor pressing him prisoner would pay a pound or two on account. He (witness) called in several of his customer's books, and on comparing them discovered there were deficiencies amounting to between £20 and £30.

Mrs. Gagen deposed to paying prisoner £2 8s. 3½d. and £1 12s. 11d.; he signed the receipts in the book produced.

Mrs. Maxfield deposed that prisoner had not accounted for these sums.

There were further charges against the prisoner of embezzling sums of money. He admitted them all and asked for leniency for the sake of his wife and children.

Mr. Maxfield said he had no wish to press the case.

Prisoner had no witnesses to call as to character, and Mr. Maxfield observed that prisoner had a very good character until he commenced the embezzlements, which, he believed was due to drink.

The Chairman said the Bench had no alternative but to send him to prison for one month on the first charge, and on the two others he would be fined £1 in each instance, in default, 14 days' on each charge.

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