



Crime and Punishment

Oaksey

Court Case

Charles Mayo

Charles Mayo, an orphan boy of Oaksey, aged 15, was charged by the Great Western Railway Company with throwing a stone at a passing train, on 28th April. Mr Plumer, solicitor, of Paddington, appeared to prosecute.

James Sandells said he was guard of the 1.50 pm train from Gloucester to Swindon. On Sunday, the 25th April, after passing under Oaksey Bridge, he saw some lads, and heard a sharp knock on top of the van, like a stone being thrown. It did not hit anyone, but it might have caused considerable damage.

William Mustoe, a lad living at Oaksey, proved being with the defendant and other boys at Oaksey Bridge. He heard defendant say, "Did you hear that noise," and defendant said " Why, the stone on the train." On being pressed, he admitted he might have told PS Evans that defendant said he threw the stone.

Robert Biggs, another lad, said defendant told him that he chucked a stone on the train,.

PS Evans, stationed at Kemble, proved receiving a complaint from the Station-master at Kemble, of someone throwing at passing trains the previous day, and on the 30th April he went to Oaksey, and saw the two witnesses, and from what they told him, he went to defendant, and asked him where he was on Sunday. Defendant said he was on Oaksey Bridge, and in answer to questions, he admitted having flung a stone at the train. He said, "No one else flung but me; I let the stone on the train." Defendant wished the case to be dealt with summarily.

Mr Plumer said there had been a good deal of stone throwing at passing trains, and they were forced to protect the public.

The Bench, after retiring for a short time, said they would let the boy off this time by paying £1, to include costs. The full penalty was two years' imprisonment, and any further case of the sort would be fully pressed. An aunt of the boy paid the money.

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