



Crime and Punishment

Oaksey

Court Case

John, William, and Thomas Gardner, George Baker and William Kent

Tuesday (Before Col. Miles, the Earl of Suffolk, Col. Keene, Major Luce and Mr W H Luce)

John Gardner, William Gardner, Thomas Gardner, George Baker and William Kent, labourers, of Oaksey, were summoned by John Lovelock, a carpenter, of the same place, charged with unlawfully assaulting and beating him, on the highway at Oaksey, on the night of the 7th December.

Mr Boodle, solicitor, of Swindon, appeared for the defence. A medical certificate of ill health was handed in on behalf of Thomas Gardner.

The case occupied the bench a long while, but the facts may be briefly stated. Lovelock deposed that he had been at the Wheat Sheaf Inn on the night in question. There was a lot of people in the house, and amongst them the defendants. Nothing passed between them while in the public-house, but immediately afterwards he was set upon on the highway by the defendants. He was stunned by a blow, and remembered nothing afterwards. He found he had been kicked and otherwise injured. He was unable to work for nearly a fortnight.

A man named Fisher and his wife, called for the prosecution, said they saw the affair, and swore that Lovelock did not strike a blow. He was simply knocked down and picked up again. They said that Thomas Gardner was the man who knocked the plaintiff down, and some of the others kicked him.

For the defence it was contended that there was an argument commenced in the public-house, and that when they got outside Thomas Gardner and Lovelock resumed the argument, and they came from words to blows, in which Lovelock got the worst of it.

The bench fined Thomas Gardner 5s and costs, and dismissed the others.

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