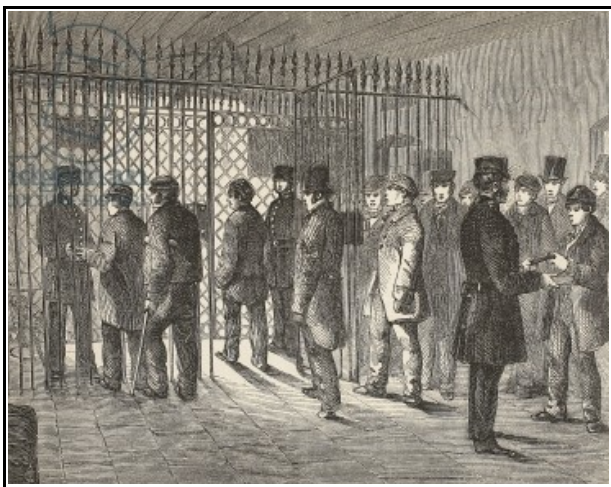


Crime and Punishment

Patney



A DARING PICKPOCKET

A fellow who gave his name as Rogers, and stated himself to have been a sailor, but who latterly, it would seem, has become one of that not very credible class that pick up a living by prowling about the country, attending the various fairs, was brought up at our adjourned borough sessions, yesterday, before the Recorder, on a charge of assisting to ease Mr. Jonathan Akerman of a silver watch and seals on the evening of Thursday last (the second day of our fair), under the following circumstances:- Mr. Akerman (who is a farmer residing at Patney, in this neighbourhood), stated that on Thursday evening last, about ½ past 8 o'clock, he was about to leave the Royal Oak Inn, on Devizes Green, to return home, and had just go outside the bar door when he was immediately surrounded and closed in upon by persons in the passage, so that he could neither move backwards or forwards. Some persons, who he could not see, held him down; and whilst in this position he felt a hand at his watch, which was instantly drawn from his pocket. He exclaimed "Someone has stolen my watch." In a moment the passage was clear, and the prisoner was about to escape when he was captured by the writer. – A woman named Mary Bridle, said, as she was going upstairs in the Inn, on the above evening, saw the prisoner, and another man who was dressed in a blue frock coat and dark trousers, which a red cravat and black cloth cap on. On coming down, about 5 minutes afterwards, the prisoner and the same man were standing in the short passage by the bar door. Just at this time Mr. Akerman came from the bar, with a whip in his hand, to go out. The prisoner and the man instantly closed upon him and pressed him against a crowd of persons in the passage. The prisoner clasped him around the waist whilst the other man put up his hand and drew out his watch; and as soon as this was done the crowd made way and he ran out of the front door. The prisoner was about to follow, but was stopped, and taken into custody. – He was found guilty and sentenced to five months imprisonment. Nothing has since been heard of the other fellow or of the watch and seals.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, Thursday 28 October 1847, Page 3, Col. 3