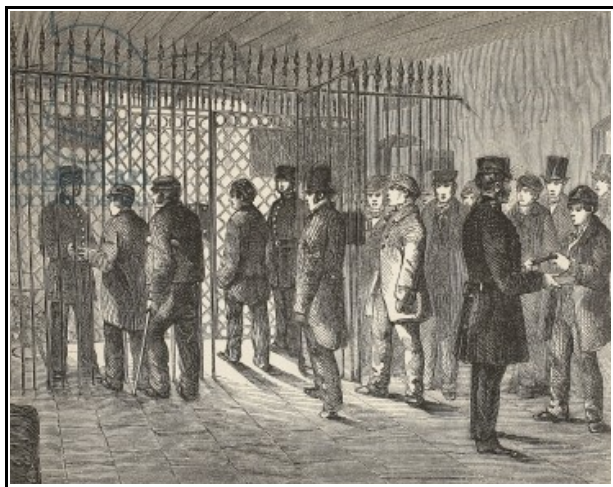


# Crime and Punishment

*Seend*



## *Servant Refused to Clean Candlestick*

Melksham Petty Sessions.

Mrs Ann Gough of Seend, was summoned by her servant Adelaide Bailey, a girl of 16, for assaulting her, by "pulling her out of bed and ordering her out of the house". Mr Bartrum appeared for the complainant, and Mr A S Smith for the defendant. It appeared that on a particular night, about 10 o'clock, the defendant went up to the complainant's bedroom and ordered her to get up and clean a candlestick. She refused, when her mistress pulled her out of bed by the arm on to the floor, and told her to leave the house, which she did, without her wages. Mr Smith said the complainant was stubborn and had refused to obey her mistress's orders on several occasions; she had been told to clean the candlestick that day, through defendant's little daughter, but had refused. He contended that the assault was justifiable, inasmuch as aggravation was given, and the learned Recorder of Bath (T W Saunders, Esq) in a recent work on *Nisi Prius*, had laid it down that a mistress was justified under the circumstances in correcting in moderation her servant girl if she were contumacious and stubborn, the same as a parent would a child, a master an apprentice, or a captain a seaman.

After half an hour's private consultation the Bench dismissed the case, at the same time observing that they considered there was indiscretion on the part of the defendant; her proper course should have been to withhold her anger till the following morning, dismiss the servant, and come to the magistrates for redress.

**Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 29 May 1862**