



Assault Charge & Indecent Behaviour

Cornelius Trotman and Enos Tarrant, two young men of Stratton St. Margaret, were charged with assaulting Edward Barnes, of the same place, at Stratton on the 11th inst.

Barnes said – on the evening of the 11th, about a quarter past nine o'clock, I was going down street towards my home when James Hughes spoke to me and asked me to shake hands with him. I did so, and as I was standing talking to him Trotman and Tarrant came up to me and took hold of my person in an indecent manner and commenced pulling me about, one before and one behind me. They did me considerable injury and I was unable to attend to my work for five days. I have offered to make the matter up if the defendants would pay me 3s. a day for the five days.

Defendants denied the assault, and said the charges had been trumped up for the purpose of extorting money. Complainant was in the habit of conducting himself in an indecent manner and, in common with others they had occasionally a game with him. It, having been proved to the satisfaction of the court, that the complainant had been guilty of indecent behaviour, the charge of assault was dismissed and the complainant ordered to pay 7s. costs. Trotman and Tarrant were bound over to be of good behaviour for six months and pay 3s. 6d. each costs.

Swindon Advertiser, 27 August 1860