



Stealing A Watch And Chain

James Mould, (28), George Macey (30), and Frank Lever (20) labourers, were indicted for stealing a silver watch and chain, at Fonthill Gifford, the property of William C. Hunter, on the 23rd of June. Mr. Ravenhill prosecuted. Prisoner lived in the neighbourhood of Tisbury, and on the 23rd of June were seen in a field in the occupation of Mr. Radcliffe, who had some pupils there. The pupils put their clothes down under the wall, whilst they were drilling and the prosecutor put his watch in his coat pocket. He went to fetch his coat a little later, and then missed his watch and chain. Prisoners afterwards offered the watch for sale to an innkeeper at Salisbury. He refused to buy the watch, and two of them went to a pawnbroker and offered to pawn the watch. The pawnbroker detained them, and gave them into custody. William C. Hunter, a scholar at Mr. W. C. Radcliffe's school, Fonthill, said he placed his watch with his coat under the wall of the drill field, about four yards from the road. When he went for his coat after the drill it was missing. The watch and chain produced he identified as his property. He valued the articles at three guineas.

Evidence was given by William Foyle (drill instructor), Frank Lever, Thomas Shepherd (innkeeper), and William Sewell (pawnbroker, Salisbury), the latter stating that Mould went to his shop with the watch produced to pawn. Mould told him he lived at Devonport, and in consequence of not being able to get employment, he was compelled to dispose of his watch and chain. He detained prisoner and gave him for custody. When apprehended, Mould said Lever gave him the watch to pawn. Macey said he did not steal the watch and when Lever showed it to him he told him he should have nothing to do with it. The Chairman advised the jury to acquit Macey, and commended Mr. Sewell for his action in giving the prisoners into custody. Mould and Lever were found guilty, the former, against whom were previous convictions, being sentenced to six months' hard labour and the latter to four months, the charge against Macey being dismissed.

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