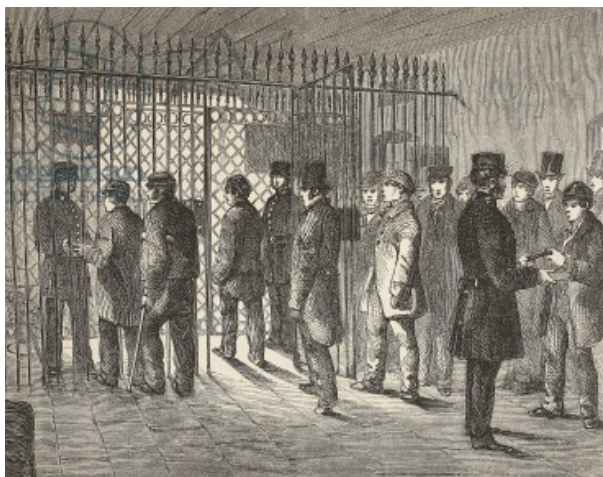


Crime and Punishment

Warminster



Theft of 59 Half-Pence

Warminster, 20th January

On Monday a young man named James Blake, was brought before J. Ravenhill, esq., in custody of No. 32, of the Wilts Constabulary, charged with stealing a quantity of half pence from a tobacco box at the King's Arms inn. It appeared that on Sunday week, the key of the tobacco-box was lost from a ring, on which there were a great number of small keys, and from the apparent lightness of the box, it was suspected it must have been taken for the purpose of opening the box. On Saturday, Mrs Dredge, the landlady, marked three half-pence, and put them into the box, in the presence of her husband; and on the Sunday morning about 10 o'clock, the landlord took up the box for the purpose of testing the weight, and was surprised at its lightness. The circumstances was named to the above constable, and suspicion attaching to Blake, who had not long left the house, he was taken into custody, and 59 half-pence were found on his person, and two out of the three marked among the number. The box was afterwards opened by the Superintendent. And amongst the few half-pence left was one of the marked ones, which with those found on the prisoner made the number put in by the landlady. He was fully committed for trial at the ensuing Assizes. The prisoner is of very respectable parents, and has been for the last 8 months been travelling in the neighbourhood with a thrashing machine.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal 25 January 1841