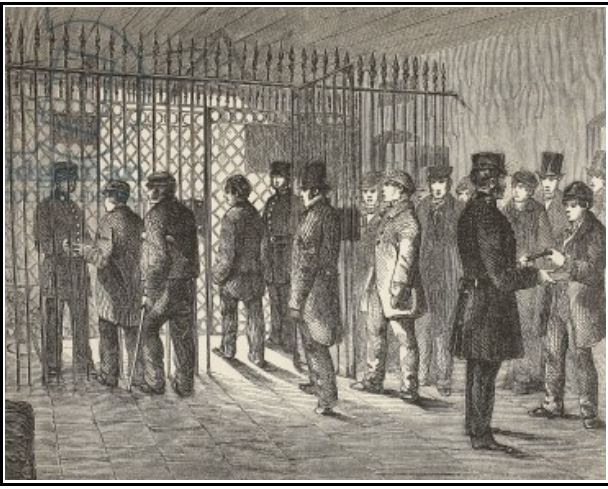


# Crime and Punishment

*West Lavington*



## *Con Men*

On Tuesday week, a fellow calling himself Taylor, waited upon Mr Ludlow Bruges of Seend, and representing that he had been a small farmer at West Lavington, and had met with such severe losses that he was entirely destitute, and solicited relief. Mr Bruges, however, refused to give a farthing. Taylor then proceeded to the house of Mr Awdry, in the same village and presented a petition setting forth that he and two others had been shipwrecked, and had lost the whole of their property, upwards of £200 in amount. To this petition was appended a long list of names for various amounts, and among them that of Mr West Awdry of Chippenham, for 10s. Fortunately for the ends of justice, Mr Awdry was at the time in the house, and without ceremony handed the fellow over to the police, and he has been since committed for two months as a rogue and vagabond.

On the previous evening Taylor was in company with two companions at Trowbridge, who on the following morning took their route through Keevil. The policeman suspecting their manoeuvres traced them to Chittern and apprehended one of them coming from the clergyman's house, when he represented that they were small farmers and timber carriers at Melksham, and had recently suffered from severe losses. He was taken to Warminster and committed for 21 days. The other fellow effected his escape.

**Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 12 February 1852**