



Wilton House, Ancestral Seat of the Earl of Pembroke

Charged with Stealing Two Cannons

Peter Moody and James Moore, were indicted for stealing, and also for receiving two cannon, value £10, the property of the Earl of Pembroke – Moore pleaded guilty. Mr Swayne prosecuted; Mr Snowden defended.

The case against Moody, who was a marine store dealer, residing at Wilton, was this: - on the 6th of January he sold 2 cannon to an ironmonger named Hapgood, at Southampton, at 6d per lb. At the same time he said he had some more, which he would bring in a day or two. Mr Hapgood showed the cannon to a policeman, and when the prisoner paid his second visit to the shop, he was taken into custody. At his first interview with Mr Hapgood he said he had purchased the cannon of an old lady, and had brought them 20 miles that morning. When stopped by the policeman, he said he had them of a "lady named Pembroke", but refused to say where she lived. He was thereupon taken into custody, and afterwards stated that he bought them of a man at Salisbury. It ultimately turned out that they were stolen from Wilton, and that they were the property of the Earl of Pembroke.

He was found guilty of receiving, and the learned Chairman said it appeared from the records of the court that he had a hand in other dishonest transaction. He must therefore be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for the period of two years. Moore was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment; and the learned Chairman highly complimented Mr Hapgood for the vigilance he had exercised in the matter.

Moody told the Court he would rather have a sentence of transportation and had been sent abroad.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 25 March 1858

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