



Crime News

Bishopstone

Embezzlement of Money

Swindon Police Court – Thursday, December 16th 1858.

Thomas Head, of Bishopstone, shoemaker, was brought up in custody, charged with having embezzled various sums of money belonging to his master, **Elijah Wells**, of Bishopstone, shoemaker. From the statement of the prosecutor, it appeared that head entered his employ about last April, as a journeyman, employed on piece work. Head having previously lived in Lyddington, and having a small connection there, asked Wells for permission to take orders for boots and shoes when he went home to Lyddington on Saturday evenings. Wells consented to him doing so, and from time to time Head obtained orders and delivered the goods on account of his master, receiving a commission on each pair for his trouble, on the special understanding that credit was not to be given except in such cases as where the money was sure.

Some misunderstanding having arisen between Head and Wells they parted this day fortnight, and upon settling their accounts, Head represented to the prosecutor that he had not received the money for shoes supplied by him on account of Wells, to several parties living at Lyddington, and wanted Wells to allow the matter to stand over till after Christmas, when he, Head, would get the money from the parties and settle up for the shoes. Wells objected to this, and having paid Head the balance of wages due to him, went to those parties whom he had represented had not paid for the shoes supplied to them, and upon finding several cases where the money had been paid, he preferred the present charge against Head.

Head in defence said he never denied having had the money, and that he intended working the money out as his master had allowed him to do on former occasions. He attributed the present proceedings to spite, in consequence of some unpleasantness that had taken place between them about some girl. Two distinct cases having been proved where head had received the money and not accounted for it, he was committed to take trial for the offence at the Winter gaol Delivery, to be held at Devizes on Wednesday next.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 20 December 1858

WILTS WINTER ASSIZES

The Commission for holding a Winter Assize, or General Gaol Delivery, in the county, was opened in Devizes last week by Mr. Justice Byles, the Judge appointed for the Western Circuit.

Thomas Head pleaded guilty to two charges of embezzlement at Bishopstone, and was sentenced to four months imprisonment.

Reading Mercury, 1 January 1859