



Crime and Punishment

Bremhill

Theft from Shopkeeper

Robert Summer, William Summer, Joseph Knee and Daniel Hunt, for a burglary in the house of G Hodges who is a shopkeeper at Bremhill, on the night of the 6th of May.

The prosecutor stated that he went to bed on the night of the robbery, leaving every thing safe, and in the morning he found that a most extensive robbery had been committed, - goods of every description, and in great quantities taken away – hats, calicoes, shawls, flannels &c.

The prosecutor went to a house in Melksham, and Robert Summer came in; he took the hat off the prisoner's head, and knew it to be a hat he and Mr Pinnegar had been in treaty about the week before; and on Mr Pinnegar being called, he also knew the hat. This brought the burglary home to him. Now as to Knee and Hunt, a constable of the name of Deadman searched their houses, and in each of them found a hat which the prosecutor swore to.

There only remains W Summer to make the burglary complete as far as regards the number of prisoners, and to bring it home to them Isabella Hanks saw the prisoners at Devizes Fair between 9 and 10 o'clock at night; she afterwards saw them at a rick at the bottom of Calne Hill; they were putting linen drapery into a bag; they took it down from a hay rick; the sack was held by William Summer, while a man of the name of Hatherall was putting the things into it. There was a piece of flannel given to her by Robert Summer, which she made into a petticoat and which, on being produced in Court, Mr Hodges swore to as his property.

A person of the name of Henry Richards produced a hat which he had purchased of William Summer, and for which he paid him half a crown.

The burglary was thus clearly brought home to all the prisoners. They made no defence; and the Jury instantly returned a verdict of guilty. - Sentence of death was recorded.

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