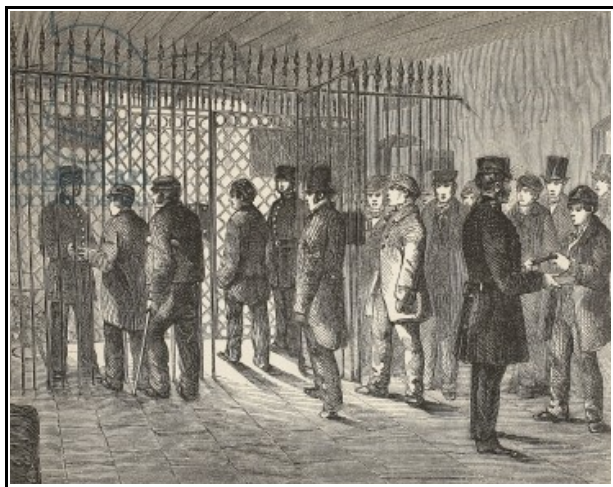


Crime and Punishment

Devizes



Disorderly in A Public House and Refusing to Quit

Alfred Ambler and Samuel Cox were summoned by Mr. W. H. Berry for disorderly conduct and refusing to quit the Old Crown Inn, in New Park Street, when requested to do so. On the 4th July last. Ambler did not appear, but was defended by Mr. Thos. Hopkins.

The first witness was Elizabeth Hammond, the barmaid, who said the defendants came into the bar on Saturday the 4th July last, and called for beer. Cox made use of disgusting and insulting language, and she ordered him out, and, on his refusing to go, she requested Ambler to take him into the tap, which he did. In cross-examination she said Ambler was sober, and did not interfere with Cox in any way until she requested him to take him out of the bar.

The next witness was a girl named Annie Wiltshire, servant at the inn, who was in the tap-room when the defendants came in; she went into the kitchen and was at work, when Miss Hammond rung for her and directed her to order the men who were making a disturbance in the tap-room to leave the house. She went in and found the defendants sparring and larking, and told them what she had been instructed to do by the barmaid, and presently Cox struck Ambler in the face, and made his nose bleed, on which they stripped off their coats and waistcoats and fought in good earnest. She ordered them to desist and leave the house, and they did so, and Ambler left as soon as he put on his coat and waistcoat. On cross-examination she said Ambler left within five minutes after Cox made his nose bleed. She ordered them to stop and leave the house as soon as she got into the room. She was sure Ambler left directly he had put on his coat and waistcoat.

Mr. Hopkins contended that the charge against Ambler fell to the ground. He was charged with refusing to leave the house when requested to do so, and the evidence of the witness for the prosecution showed that he left immediately on being requested. Mr. Jackson said he was charged with being disorderly, and refusing to leave.

Mr. Hopkins said that the latter part of the charge, at all events, could not be sustained.

Cox said they were only larking, and were not in earnest, and the servant was a joking sort of girl, so that they did not first think, when she ordered them to leave, that she was in earnest.

The bench thought the fact of their taking off their coats and waistcoats showed that it was a little beyond play, and fine them 5s. each and costs, or, in default, seven days' imprisonment

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