



### **Horse Dealers Resist Bailiff**

Devizes

Resisting a County Court Officer

On Thursday, James Clacey and Henry Ashley, horse dealers, were charged, before Mr Simpson, with resisting William Coward, County Court bailiff, in the execution of his duty. On Thursday afternoon, Coward went to the market to seize two cart-horses, belonging to a horse dealer named Frederick Willis, at the suit of William Sutton, coach builder, of Devizes, who had obtained a judgement summons against Willis. The bailiff had no sooner caught hold of the horses' halters that a number of horse-dealers came to the rescue, and by the use of their whips upon the animals caused them to plunge to such a degree that the bailiff was unable to hold them. Henry Ashley then jumped on the back of one of them, and, catching the other by the halter, rode off with them as fast as he could. Inspector Manley was close by at the time, and was requested by the bailiff to take Willis into custody for resisting the officer in the execution of his duty, but before he could do so the horses were gone. Prisoner's only defence was that the horses were their own, but the magistrates' clerk said the question of ownership did not arise. Mr Simpson said that if the authority of the law was to be over-ridden by a set of lawless fellows like the defendants and others, who appeared to have been acting with them, there would be an end to all justice. Defendants were fined 40s and costs. The money was at once paid.

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