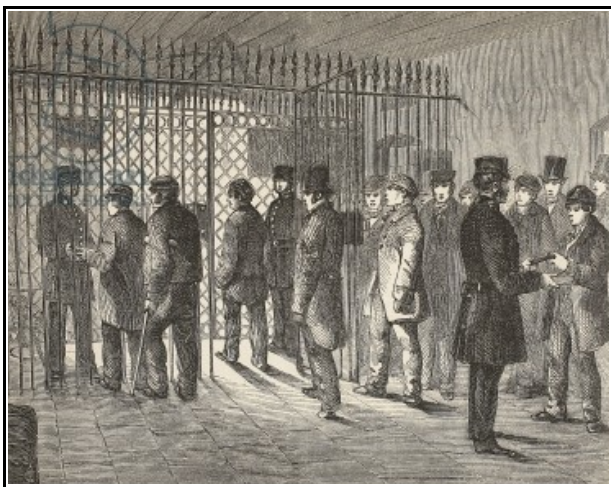


Crime and Punishment

Devizes



Robbed by Drinking Partners

At our Borough Sessions, on Monday last, James Holly, James Truman and Daniel Deverall, were charged with having robbed a labouring man named Job Dicks (of Seend) on his road from Devizes to Seend, on Thursday 16th of October.

It appeared that Dicks had been drinking with two of the prisoners during the afternoon, at the Nag's Head public house, in this town, and that between 7 and 8 o'clock he left to go home. He had not, however, proceeded further than Belle Vue, when two persons came behind him, and whilst one of them drew his smock frock over his head, and held it so that he could neither see nor move, the other rifled his pockets of all they contained, and which consisted of a powder flask, a knife and about two shillings in money. They then ran off towards the turnpike, but before they could get far from him, he was able to see that they were James Holly and James Truman, the two men whom he had been treating to beer at the Nag's Head. About an hour and a half afterwards, Holly and Truman, together with Deverall, walked into the Old Crown public house in New Park Street, Deverall having in his possession a powder flask, which was taken possession of by Stiles (who had advanced 6d upon it) and was afterwards handed over to the police and identified by Dicks, as the same which was stolen from him.

The prisoners were all found, guilty. Holly, who had been convicted three times previously of rape, stabbing and poaching, was sentenced to be transported for 7 years. Deverall, against whom there was also a previous conviction, but whose share in the transaction did not appear so bad as the other two, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. And Truman, in consequence of his previous good character was sentenced to be imprisoned for 6 months.

Holly begged the Recorder to recall his sentence, and have mercy upon him.

The Recorder – You have shewn, by your repeated offences, that you have no mercy upon society; therefore the law can have no mercy upon you.

Addressing Dicks (the prosecutor), whose character does not appear to have been the most steady, the Recorder then said – And I would advise you, for the future, to spend your money in a more prudent manner. Get rid of your gun, and lay out your money; upon your land; depend upon it you will find it much more to your advantage.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 30 October 1851