



Downton Fair Theft

Yesterday se'ennight, at Downton fair, in Wiltshire, two well looking men, who call themselves James Lowe and Edward Edwards, were seen to pick the pocket of Mr. Robert Futcher, of Fovant, who had just before received some bills, of which, it is supposed, they were well informed; upon being pursued one of them threw away a pocket-book, which afterwards was proved to be Mr. Futcher's property.

They were secured and conveyed to Salisbury, where they underwent several strict examinations, and on Wednesday were fully committed to Fisherton goal, to take their trial at the next assizes. They are both genteelly dressed and were extremely well mounted. It appeared that Lowe keeps a publick house at Bromsgrove, in Worcestershire. He had about him a considerable quantity of cash, three bank notes, and a great number of copper-plate shop bills, done in imitation of banknotes. Edwards also had some cash, two small bank bills, and some counterfeit notes. He appears to have been a horse dealer, but has lately lived upon the drop, as they emphatically term it. These men appear, from a variety of circumstances, to have lived chiefly by their depredations on the publick.

Leeds Intelligencer, Tuesday, 9 May 1786

Edward “Bump-Cheek” Edwards Committed To Newgate

The notorious Edward Edwards, well known by the appellation of Bumbey, otherwise Bump-cheek Edwards, is committed to Newgate, to take his trial at the next assizes for Wiltshire, for a robbery committed by him, in company with one Lowe, on Mr. Robert Futcher, of Fovant, at Downton fair, in the year 1786. This fellow has evaded the pursuit of justice ever since, and is supposed to have accumulated a large sum by his mal-practices.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, 10 November 1791