

Crime and Punishment

Downton



Manslaughter at Downton

Abraham Beaumont (30) was indicted for the manslaughter of George Bunday, at Downton, on the 10th of July last. Mr. Snowden prosecuted.

It appeared that a fight took place between Bunday and a man named Grey, which resulted in the death of the former. The prisoner and another man named Chalk acted as seconds during the fight. Bunday was struck or kicked in the abdomen, and died a short time afterwards. The prisoner absconded, but the others were apprehended and tried at the last summer Assizes, and sentenced to 14 days imprisonment. The prisoner recently surrendered to the police.

In his defence he said that as he was standing by he saw Grey hit the deceased an unfair blow. He remonstrated with Grey, lifted Bunday up, and persuaded them to go quietly home.

The learned Judge said it should be well known that if two men engaged in a fight, and two others went out to assist them by acting as seconds, the latter were liable to be indicted for manslaughter in the event of one of the principals meeting with his death. Although the prisoner was the friend of Bunday, he went, in fact, to support the fight. The Jury must, therefore, find him guilty.

The prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to 14 days hard labour.

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