



HORSES, DRINK AND EMBEZZLEMENT

Charles Pegler was indicted for embezzling the sum of five guineas, the property of William Gregory of Chippenham, in the 18th day of January, to which he pleaded not guilty.

The prosecutor is a farmer living at Bremhill, and on the day in question he attended a sale of stock at Bewly Court, Lacock. He there bought a horse at £5 5s; but having partaken rather too freely of a mixture of "old grape wine, brandy, gin and beer", he became unwell, and gave the prisoner a £5 note and two half crowns to pay for the animal. He afterwards found that it had not been paid for, and that the prisoner had disappeared.

The prosecutor was cross examined as to whether he did not go to the prisoner on the following morning, and ask him to give up any portion of the £5 5s which they had not spent in drink, but this he altogether denied.

The prisoner, when before the magistrates, said he took the money as a gift, and went off with it.

(Laughter).

Mr Graves contended that the whole affair was a frolic, that the money was spent amongst the party, and that the prisoner had no intention of robbing the prosecutor, who appeared to have a great penchant for getting drunk at other people's expense.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the learned Judge, in sentencing him to four months imprisonment, said it was a very scandalous thing to take advantage of a man who was intoxicated; so far from being a mitigation, it was an aggravation of the offence.

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