



Marlborough College

Robbery of Marlborough School Pupils by James Ladd

Impudent Robbery

James Ladd, aged 17, was indicted at our County Sessions last week, for feloniously stealing a silk neck-tie, the property of Nathaniel Pugh, a pupil at Marlborough college. On Sunday November 21st, after morning service Master Pugh said he went to Preshute churchyard, accompanied by Edward Bloxham, a fellow pupil. While there, Ladd and another boy went up to them, swore at them, and said he would thrash them unless they gave him some money. Witness replied that he had no money, on which Ladd demanded his knife. He said he had no knife. Ladd then seized his neck tie and broke it by force. Edward John Bloxham corroborated his fellow pupil's testimony. The Jury found the prisoner guilty, and Mr. Merewether in passing sentence said, the charge against him was that on a Sunday – a day which he ought the less to have done so – he and another boy went prowling about in the neighbourhood of a school where there were smaller boys than himself, and with a violence which if not checked would ultimately lead him to the scaffold, first demanded money from the younger boys who had given evidence, then their knives, and failing in either of these objects he seized the first thing about them which he could most easily lay hold of. As he had already undergone some imprisonment, having been committed on the 22nd November, the sentence of the Court was that he be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for six weeks and twice well flogged. The case excited considerable interest owing to the clearness, intelligence, and pleasing self possession with which the pupils of the college, though young in years, gave their evidence.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 13 January 1853