



Crime and Punishment

Seend

Trousers Theft

Melksham Petty Sessions

Joseph Gregory, a labourer at Seend iron works and John Kettlely, a miserable looking object, were charged, the former with stealing and the latter with feloniously receiving a pair of trousers, value 8s, the property of John Breach, innkeeper of Seend.

The trousers were put out on a hedge to dry on the Saturday last, were missed on Sunday and traced by PC Leversuch to a canal, of which Kettlely was in charge. Kettlely first said he did not know how they came there, but afterwards said Gregory gave them to him. Gregory made a most extraordinary defence. He said he saw some man eyeing the trousers suspiciously, and he (Gregory) took them to prevent the other man from stealing them, but with the intention of returning them to their rightful owner.

The Bench did not consider his intentions to be sincere, and sentenced him to one month's hard labour, but discharged Kettlely.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 27 July 1865