

Crime and Punishment

Sutton Mandeville



Herbert Johnson was charged with stealing, on the 29th of January, a watch, two sovereigns, a purse, and 17 shillings, the property of Henry Turner.

Henry Turner deposed, 'On the 24th of January I was visiting at my uncle's, Mr Stone, of Sutton Mandeville. When I went to bed, I had in my purse two sovereigns and 17 shillings in silver, which I put under the bolster. I went to bed about eleven o'clock. I also had a watch, and I had some coppers in my waistcoat pocket. When I awoke all these articles were gone. I found my trousers on the floor. I then discovered that an old window had been beaten in, by which means parties from without could obtain admission'.

Jacob Cadbury, a police-constable at Fovant, said that, on the 30th of January, he went to a loft over a stable of Mr Charles Blandford's and there found in a pair of boots a sovereign, six shillings, and four-pence, in silver. He also found a watch inclosed in the thatch of the roof, which he now produced.

John Toomer examined. On the 36th (sic) of January, I was in the employ of Mr Charles Blandford, of Sutton Mandeville. The prisoner slept in the loft over the stable. I remember the policeman finding the money in the loft. I asked him if he knew anything about the money which had been found in his boots, and he said he did not. He then asked if his boots were gone? and went up into the loft to look for them. When he returned, he said the watch was gone. I asked him if he knew anything about the watch? and he said, he put it between the rafters. I asked him then if any other person had any thing to do with it? and he said "No." I saw boots, and know they belonged to the prisoner.

Prosecutor then identified his watch and purse. The prisoner was found Guilty.

His Lordship said he had been clearly convicted under very aggravated circumstances, inasmuch as at the time he was in respectable employment. The sentence of the Court was that he be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for eight months.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – 10 March, 1849)