



£1 Note Drawn on the Andover Old Bank 1858

Accused of Stealing

Sarah Yates, a respectable looking servant girl, daughter of the parish clerk of Fittleton, was charged, on two indictments, with having stolen a £10 note, the property of her master, the Rev. James Francis Turner, rector of North Tidworth, and also with having stolen a sovereign belonging to a fellow servant named Julia Hedges.

The latter case was taken first.

It appeared that on the 26th of April Julia Hedges (who is cook in the establishment), received £3 of her mistress' wages; she put the money in a desk which she kept in the kitchen, locked it up, and put the key in the pocket of her dress. Upon going to bed she hung her dress up in the bedroom, which was also occupied by the prisoner, but as it was not a dress which she used to do her ordinary work in, she did not put it on the next morning, and the key was left in the pocket of it. Upon taking the dress down however on the following evening, she found the key gone, and on searching for it afterwards it was found upon the kitchen shelf. She then opened her desk and discovered that a sovereign had been taken, and as the prisoner had paid away a sovereign the same day to a dressmaker named Louisa Jackman – a bright sovereign such as she had lost - she accused her of having stolen it. Both father and the mother of the prisoner came forward and stated that they had given the girl a sovereign only a week or two before, on account of her having given some clothes to a crippled sister, and for her general kindness to her. But considerable suspicion attached to this evidence, on account of a letter having been discovered in the prisoner's handwriting, and which had been sent to the father, directing him to tell this story in order to help her "out of the mess". The jury, however, gave the girl the benefit of the doubt and acquitted her.

The other case was then gone into. It appeared that on the 30th December last, the Rev. Mr. Turner received two £10 notes on the Andover Bank from the Rev. John Feudall, and that on the same day he gave them to his wife, who put them into her davenport. On the 12th of January Mrs. Turner, on going to the davenport, could find only one of the notes, and about a month afterwards it was ascertained that the prisoner had given to a sweetheart named Thomas (to whom she was about to be married shortly), and who had come from Devizes to see her, a £10 Andover note, requesting him to pay it into the Savings Bank at Devizes for her. Thomas however kept the note for a short time; then changed it at the shop of Mr. Hopkins, in Devizes, and afterwards paid into the Savings Bank £10 in gold on account of the prisoner. The £10 note which Mr. Hopkins received from Thomas subsequently found its way to the North Wilts Bank, but that it was the same note which Mrs. Turner has lost there was no evidence whatever to show. All that was proved was that Mrs. Turner had lost a £10 note and that the prisoner had sometime afterwards given a £10 note to her sweetheart.

The Jury, however, seemed to have great difficulty in coming to a unanimous verdict. They were accordingly locked up, and had not agreed when the Court broke up.

(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, Thursday, 5 July 1860)

....The Jury subsequently returned a verdict of not guilty.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday, 7 July 1860)