



Wilton Union Workhouse (Modern Day View)

## Maliciously Wounding at the Wilton Union

William Adams labourer was indicted for unlawfully and maliciously wounding Francis Tutt at the Wilton Union on 5th October. Mr. Snowden prosecuted.

The prosecutor is porter at the Wilton Union, and the prisoner was an inmate at the time the offence was committed. The prosecutor took prisoner his dinner, and went into the ward in order to place it on the table. To do so he had to pass the prisoner who was then standing at the door. Immediately he had done so, he felt a blow on the back, and on his turning around he saw the prisoner in the act of striking him a second blow. The prisoner had then a large table knife in his possession. He knocked it out of his hand and threw the tray at him. The prisoner armed himself with the poker and endeavoured to strike the prosecutor with it. The blow aimed at him, fell upon the door. The prisoner was ultimately secured and given into custody. The clothes the prosecutor had on at the time were cut through, and he received a wound in the back. The surgeon Mr. McCall said it was a superficial wound, not more than a scratch, but it could have been produced by the knife. The prosecutor stated that he did not aggravate the prisoner before he was struck. The prisoner, in defence, said the porter had greatly aggravated him, and he stabbed him with the knife.

The jury found him guilty.

Mr. James Barnes, the master of the Wilton Union, said the prisoner was admitted to the house on the 4th April 1861 and he had been an inmate of the union since that time. His conduct had been generally bad. He now held in his possession the punishment book, and he been compelled to report him to the board. On October 1st 1862, he was guilty of disobedience to the master; on March 28th, he was punished for tampering with the medicine of the other paupers; on September 20th he was reported for assaulting a man, and abusing a second man; on the 1st October he was reported for assaulting the baker; and in consequence of his previous conduct, the Board of Guardians, on the matter being referred to them, ordered him to be taken before the magistrates. He was summoned to appear on the 6th October, but having assaulted the prosecutor on 5th October, the other charge was not proceeded with. He had received letter from the master of the Marylebone Union, where the prisoner had been an inmate previous to his being sent to Wilton, in reference to his conduct. The chairman said they could not receive that as evidence.

In passing sentence Mr. Merewether said the prisoner had had a very narrow escape, for if the knife had taken the effect he appeared to have intended, he might have stood there to answer for the crime of murder. He appeared to have behaved very improperly during the time he had been an inmate of the house and the authorities of union houses must be protected from such persons as the prisoner. He had

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doubt whether he ought not to send him to penal servitude, and if he had been previously convicted, he should have done so. The sentence he would now receive would be recorded and if he again was guilty of such an offence, he would be severely punished.

The Chairman sentenced him with six months hard labour.

**Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday, 24 October 1863**