



New Inn, Old Bailey

## Theft of Draper's Material

### Police Guildhall

Yesterday William Dance, a porter at the New Inn, Old Bailey was finally examined before Mr. Alderman Magnay, charged with stealing a box containing returned goods from a draper at Highworth, in Wilts, addressed to Messrs Gillman and Lucas, warehousemen, Newgate Street.

The evidence previously taken was read over to the effect that on Monday, the 25th of March, Mr. Webb, a tobacconist in Goswell Street, called at the booking office of the New Inn to state some circumstances that had excited his suspicion. On the preceding Saturday morning the New Inn wagon drew up near his door and the driver having drawn the awning to screen him from observation, got into the wagon, forced open a box and deliberately took out the packages one by one. Mr. Webb and his wife looking through their first-floor window could see into the wagon, even to catching the address written on the cover of the box. They saw him unroll the papers from two pieces of bombazine and some lace and break open and read a letter he took from the box. He replaced the articles carelessly in the box before he drove away.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Webb identified the prisoner positively as the man whom they watched.

Miss Martha Matthews now deposed that she lived at Mr. Smith's at Highworth and packed the goods in the box, which was sent to London on the 19th of March. She placed in it 69 yards of blend, a half-piece of lustring, a half-piece of green riband, two pieces of bombazine, three satin stocks and two tissue figured handkerchiefs. Mr. Matthews, one of the proprietors of the inn, said that after receiving the information from Mr. Webb on the 25th of March, he took no notice of the matter to the prisoner till the 2nd of April when he asked him how it happened that he had not got the signature of Messrs. Gillman and Lucas for the delivery of the box there. The prisoner replied he was not positive that he had taken the box out for delivery. Witness told him he was sure he had and moreover he had evidence that he opened the box in the wagon in Goswell Street. The prisoner answered that he would not believe the gentleman who said that on his oath. Witness did not give him into custody, thinking it would be prudent to ascertain first what were the contents.

Mr. Wooler, for the prisoner put some questions in answer to which Mr. Matthews said the prisoner was under warning when he stole the box. Witness knew he was going to another inn. Notwithstanding he had told the prisoner a gentleman saw him open the identical box, he did not apprehend he would run away and did not cause him to be taken into custody till the 6th inst.

Herdfield, the officer, said he apprehended the prisoner at the Elephant Inn. He searched him and also his lodging, but did not find anything connected with this charge. Mr. Wooler dwelt on the conduct of the prisoner in not flying to avoid the charge.

Mr. Alderman Magnay thought the evidence was conclusive and committed the prisoner for trial.

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