



Bradford on Avon
PETTY SESSIONS – Wednesday
(Before T. B. Saunders and S. Moulton, Esqrs)

The parties who had business at the court today were kept waiting for two hours for the attendance of a second magistrate, Mr. Saunders being the only magistrate out of eight who seemed to have any regard for the business of the public. After hunting the town for two hours, Mr. Moulton's attendance was secured.

How Mrs. Hart and her Juvenile Visitors took Grog together at Holt

John Hendy, a boy of twelve years of age, was charged with stealing a £5 note, the property of his master, William Deverell at Holt, on 29th December.

Prosecutor said - I keep the Three Lions Inn, Holt. Yesterday afternoon, the 29th December, in consequence of a communication my wife made to me, I went in search of a £5 note, and afterwards found a £5 note of the Wilts and Dorset Bank, at Mr. Laws's, baker of Holt, who had changed it, and he showed it to me. In consequence of something I had heard, yesterday evening I had a conversation with the prisoner. I asked him if he had received a letter that morning. He said he had. I said, "How was it the letter was not delivered by the postman, at my house, in the usual way". Prisoner said "It was directed to a Mrs. Hart who lived at next door." I then detained him in the house and sent for Mrs. Hart. When she

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came, I asked her if she had received a letter referred to by the prisoner. She said she had not. I told him I should send for the policeman, and he then pulled the change out of his pocket; it was in a purse, and consisted of three sovereigns, 15s. 6d. in silver, and a half-penny. I asked him what he had done with the rest, and he said he had spent it. I then said to him "Tell me the truth, and it will be the better for you." He then admitted picking the note up in the passage.

Harry Law – I am a baker, of Holt. Last evening between 6 and 7 o'clock, the prisoner came for a 1/4cwt bran with which I served him. He tendered me two shillings, and asked if I could change a £5 note. I said I could. He produced a note of the Wilts and Dorset Bank and I changed it. I gave him three sovereigns, two half sovereigns, four half-crowns, and the rest in sixpences and shillings. I gave the note to Richard Perrett, police constable. I was told by the prisoner he was in the service of Mr. Deverell, and thought the change was for him.

George Tucker, a boy of 15 said – I work for Mr. Beaven, fellmonger of Holt. I know the prisoner, I saw him last night at the Three Lions, soon after 7 o'clock; he had some money, and I didn't know how he came by it. I saw some of the money fall about at Mrs. Hart's afterwards. Prisoner said he had the money sent to him. Mrs. Hart asked us to come in. I saw some silver fall out of his purse, but no gold. Prisoner got some gin at Mr. Deverell's, and gave Mrs. Hart and me some gin and water. Mrs. Hart saw the money all about, and she asked him how he came by it. He said he had it sent him by his uncle. He wanted me to go to Trowbridge to buy some things. Mrs. Hart gave me a bottle and the prisoner sent me to the Three Lions for a shilling's worth of brandy. Mr. Deverell carried the brandy down himself. I told him it was for Mrs. Hart.

P.C. Richard Perrott – I am a police constable stationed at Holt. Last evening at about 9 o'clock I went to the Three Lions Inn. I went into the parlour and there saw Mr. Deverell, his wife and the prisoner. Mr. Deverell charged the prisoner with stealing a £5 note. Mrs. Deverell said she had a £5 note in her possession sometime in the afternoon, that she placed the note in her dress pocket. About an hour afterwards she changed her dress, and soon after that the prisoner was seen to go upstairs. Shortly afterwards the note was missing. I took the boy into custody on the charge of stealing the note, and asked him if he knew anything of the note, and he said he did not. I took the note which I now produce. Sonia Deverell, wife of William Deverell said – Yesterday afternoon, I took a £5 note of the Wilts and Dorset Bank, of a man named William Morris, to change it. I put it in my pocket and went upstairs to change my dress. About ten minutes afterwards I went upstairs and missed the note. I did not see the prisoner come upstairs but heard someone above me. When I missed the note I and my servants searched for it, but could not find it. I am quite sure it was in my pocket when I went upstairs. I don't know whether the prisoner saw me take the note of Morris. He was about the house when I was searching for the same. It is very possible that I might have pulled my pocket handkerchief out of my pocket, and so dropped the note in the passage, and the boy might have picked it up. The prisoner said he picked up the note in the passage by the kitchen door.

Amelia Hart – I am the wife of Samuel Hart, and live at Holt. I know nothing at all about it. I knew the prisoner, as I lived next door to him so long. I saw him outside the door. He called me out and asked me to drink, but I would not go. I called him in to see what he had. He said it was gin and water. But I would not have it. I asked him if he would give me anything better and he said he would treat me to anything else. I gave Tucker a bottle to get something in. When he took out some silver to pay for some spirits, the money fell about. I asked him how he came by it and he said Mr. Beak gave it to him as a Christmas box, and I said Mr. Beak had come out very handsome. Mr. Deverell came in and called "Jack" out, and they went away together. While Tucker was gone for the brandy I saw sovereigns in Jack's purse, and I asked him how he came by them. He said he had saved up more than one while he was at Mr. Beaks, and the rest he had sent him by an uncle from America.

The prisoner is an orphan, and was tap boy in the service of Mr. Beak the former, and Mr. Deverell the present tenant of the Three Lions Inn, Holt, and Mr. Deverell very kindly offered to take him back into his service again, not wishing to press the case. Under these circumstances the Bench discharged the prisoner with a caution.

Trowbridge and North Wilts Advertiser, 2 January 1864