

Foreigner Steals from Fellow Countryman

Jean Hulpowski was indicted for stealing a carpet-bag containing various articles, the property of Jean Chylinski, at Trowbridge.

Mr. Slade conducted the prosecution.

Jean Chylinski (examined through an interpreter) – I was at Trowbridge on the 11th July; I was coming from Devizes and got to Trowbridge between five and seven in the evening. The prisoner came to me in the street, and asked me whether I was a foreigner? I said, Yes, I am; what countryman are you? He said he was a German. I spoke to him in German, and then the prisoner said he was a Frenchman, in English; I then addressed him in French, and the prisoner said he was no Frenchman, but a Hungarian. I addressed him in the Hungarian language; and at last he said, I am a Pole.

We then went to a printer to have some bills printed relative to my exhibition. We afterwards went to a public-house. I told him I wished to stay a few nights at Trowbridge; and I asked if him I could get private lodgings? The prisoner replied, Yes: and that I could have lodgings at his own house. I said, I should have no objection, provided there was another bed; he said there was, and I went to his house, having left my luggage at the Horse and Groom, and engaged a poor man to carry part of the luggage; the prisoner took the carpet bag, and walked behind. When we got to the lodging, we missed him. This was Sunday, and I did not see the prisoner till Monday when I was shown the carpet-bag by the police. James Purnell – I was at Trowbridge on the 11th July; I saw two foreigners standing at the Horse and Groom; the prisoner asked me if I would take some luggage, and he would give me a shilling. The prosecutor gave the prisoner a carpet-bag and followed me till we got to Nash's yard.

The prosecutor accompanied me to the lodgings; and then we went to look after the prisoner.

William Wentworth – I am a policeman and was on my beat near Bradford on the 12th July; I saw prisoner go past with a carpet-bag; I had heard of a robbery, and I followed the prisoner and overtook him; the bag was open, and he was looking at the things it contained; I took him into custody, and searched him, and found the lock of the bag and a seal.

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Mr. Justice Coleridge having summed up, the Jury found the prisoner Guilty.

The learned Judge, in sentencing the prisoner, said, that he was to punish him according to his feeling of the peculiar baseness of the offence, the sentence would be a very severe one; because he thought, foreigner as he was, meeting one of his own countrymen in a foreign land, that he should have made up his mind to plunder him, was extremely base; but he had seemed to make this man's being a foreigner, the very foundation of imposing on him; he must have formed the design from the first to rob him, and the very first moment he had become possessed of any article of his, he had made of with it. What his previous life and character had been he did not know.

The prisoner – I never would have done it, but I was in liquor. I feel how shameful my conduct was.

The judge – he could only hope that this was the case: he did not do honour to his country by acting in this way.

The prisoner was then sentenced to be imprisoned for six months, and to be kept to hard labour.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 24 August 1840