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Crime, Poverty and Social Policy in the Metropolis

Smith, Mayow. (288) Sixth Session, 1810.

and did not hear any more about it till they came up, searched me and the room, and took me to the watch-house.

GUILTY, aged 20.
Of stealing from the person, but not violently.
Transported for Seven Years.
First Middlesex jury, before Mr. Justice Chambre.

512. GEORGE FREEMAN was indicted for feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of George Bruniges, about the hour of three in the morning, on the 25th of June, the said George Bruniges and others of his family being therein, and stealing therein, three pounds nine ounces weight of soap, value 5s. 6d. and three hundred and thirty-seven halfpence, the property of George Bruniges.

GEORGE BRUNIGES. I am a publican; I live in Wentworth-street, Whitechapel. On the 25th of June, between three and four o'clock in the morning, I was in bed in my one pair of stairs-front room, I heard the watchman say, landlord, come to the window; I went to the window and opened it; the watchman told me there was something the matter with the windows, he came past at two o'clock, it was all safe then. I went down stairs directly, I found my bar door broken open, and the till containing the money was gone, the street door was open, and one of the shutters was broke and taken down. I informed Mr. Griffiths the officer.

Q. Was any thing taken away?—A. The till was gone, and the house was broken open. I saw the till the last thing at night, it was full of halfpence and penny-pieces, and one bar of soap was taken away.

Q. Did you see any thing of the prisoner, or know any thing of the prisoner?—A. Not till he was brought to my house about three hours after by a police officer, and the soap was also brought.

Q. You said you were in bed, what others of your family were there too?—A. I had my three children in bed.

SARAH BRUNIGES. I am the daughter of the last witness.

Q. What time were you called up?—A. My father was called up first. I only know that I was the person that brought the soap, it weighed three pounds nine ounces good weight; I bought it on Sunday evening and put it on the top tub in the passage; it cost three shillings and sixpence; that was gone when I got up in the morning.

Q. Did you ever see it again?—A. Yes; I suppose it was the same soap, it was cut in pieces.

SARAH MILLER. I am a police officer. About five o'clock on Monday morning, the 25th of June, Griffiths, my fellow officer, came to my house and called me up, and said there had been a public house broken open in Wentworth-street; we went and found the head of the shutter cut through to take the shutter down; we then went and searched the persons of bad character; I found the prisoner in bed with a girl in a court in Wentworth-street, about a quarter past six in the morning; I then went to a closet in the room and found these halfpence; he was in bed with a girl, undressed; I was in the kitchen, I found a pistol in the closet, a centur bit, and this small chisel, and under the pillar I found these bits of soap; I then took them to the house that was broken open and tried this chisel to two places where the lead had been cut away under the

shutter; there were two places that fitted it; we then took him to the office and went and weighed the soap, it weighed three pounds nine ounces. In taking him to the office I asked where he got the halfpence; he at first hesitated, and I asked him again; he then said he had them from his father on Saturday night; we said we knew nothing about the soap.

Q. Was the prisoner in the room when you found the things?—A. No; not exactly then.

Mr. ALLEY. His father keeps a shop, does not he?—A. Yes, a cork-cutters shop.

Q. The girl is an unfortunate creature that sees other men?—A. She is; I have seen him with her a number of times; it is my opinion he entirely keeps her.

JOHN GARRITTUS. I was with the other officer, Miller; I know no more than him; I was with him when he fitted the chisel with the place, and it fitted exactly.

Q. to Sarah Bruniges. You say that you had bought the soap on the Sunday night?—A. Yes; that is the same sort of soap; it was in one piece, it is in seven pieces now; it is yellow soap.

Q. to Prosecutor. You do not know so much of the soap as your daughter perhaps?—A. No; I only saw it when it lay in the passage. I cannot swear to any of the halfpence; there were four pounds worth of halfpence and penny pieces in my till, not two shillings more or less, and all was gone. I did not count the quantity that the officer brought back.

Q. to Miller. When you found the soap under the pillow, how many pieces were there?—A. Seven. I brought them all away.

Q. The halfpence that you found in the closet, what quantity were they?—A. Fourteen shillings and a halfpenny, that is the quantity that is here now.

GUILTY—DEATH, aged 19.
First Middlesex jury, before Mr. Justice Le Blanc.

513. JAMES CARPENTER was indicted for that he on the 23d of March, feloniously did utter and pass as true a certain false, forged and counterfeited promissory note, with intention to defraud William Clark, Second Count for feloniously disposing off, and putting away a certain false forged note, with the same intention.

WILLIAM CLARK. I am a publican; I keep the Royal Oak in Red Lion-passag. On the 23d of March, about four o'clock in the afternoon, the prisoner with two others came into my house, apparently as if they had just met on the spot, they called for a glass of liquor a piece; the prisoner presented me a one pound billerick note to pay for three glasses of liquor that came so about nine-pence. This is the note, I marked it at the back; it is a one pound billerick note. I told him I could not give him change for a one-pound note; then one of them said, you may as well have your liquor here as any where else; they had a bottle of brandy and a pint of gin; I told them I had about ten shillings of change; Carpenter presented me the same one pound note; I said, I do not like the note; I objected to it because it was a country note; Carpenter then said, you must give me change for a five pound note; I saw it was a Southampton note; I had suspicion it was a forged note; I thought I had better give change for the one pound note.

COURT. Did not you think it would be better not to

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