



Convict Transportation Vessel S. S. Somersetshire

Pickwick Man Stabbed While Walking Home From Corsham With Family

At Salisbury Assizes

William Knight was indicted for cutting and stabbing Thomas Bulcock, with intent to do some grievous bodily harm. The prosecutor, who resides at Pickwick, in this county, having been on the 15th of November last to spend the evening with his father at Corsham, in company with his wife and other members of the family, on their return home about nine o'clock were met by the prisoner and William Prosser (who had been indicted with the prisoner, but the Grand Jury had thrown out the bill against him). The prisoner jostled against the prosecutor, threw him upon his back, and fell upon him. The prosecutor called out for assistance. His companions, who were in advance of him, returned, and found the prisoner upon him in the road, and having rescued the prosecutor, a fight ensued, and it was given in evidence that when the prosecutor and his party were leaving, the prisoner called out, "Come out, and I will give you some cold steel." The prosecutor took no notice of this at the time; but on his way home felt a pain in his side, and upon reaching home he ascertained that he had been stabbed, and immediately sent for a surgeon, who discovered an oblique wound upon the ribs, an inch long, and a quarter of an inch in depth. Upon the prisoner's apprehension, a large clasp knife was discovered upon him, which exactly fitted the cuts in the prosecutor's clothes, and which the surgeon stated was an instrument calculated to inflict such a wound as that which he had discovered.

The prisoner denied the charge entirely, and called as a witness Prosser (who had been indicted with him; Prosser stated that the knife which had been found upon Knight was his knife; and that he had lent it to Knight on the morning after the assault.

The jury found the prisoner Guilty, and he was sentenced to 15 year's transportation – Counsel for the prosecution, Mr Merewether.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Monday, March 8 1841

OPC Note:-

William Knight was sentenced at Salisbury Assizes on 1st March 1841. He was subsequently transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) aboard the Transportation Vessel "Somersetshire" on 30th November 1841 arriving on 30th May 1842.