



Boys Charged With Stealing Wood

Strange Justice

The city magistrates, at their weekly meeting, on Monday, administered “justice” in a case that came before them in a peculiar manner. Seven little boys were charged with stealing 2½d worth of dead wood from an unoccupied park under the control of the trustees to Mr R. King Wyndham, and known as the College Ground. One of the offending boys, named Yates, who has just completed his 14th year, was in 1866, convicted and sentenced to be detained in a reformatory for three years. His mother stated that since then he had behaved himself well; nevertheless, the Bench considered the fatal record of the past offence a serious aggravation of his present crime; and whilst discharging the remaining six upon payment of costs, sentenced Yates to 14 days’ imprisonment, and afterwards two years at a reformatory. It should be stated that the boys alleged that the son of a man who had undisputed right to the property, gave them permission to “take a little wood.”

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