



Summary of Court Proceedings

Salisbury Assizes - 1st March 1841

On Monday the Commission for these Assizes was opened in this city. The calendar contained no less than 86 prisoners for trial, some of whom were charged with very serious crimes. The cause-list presented twelve cases, two of which were to be tried by special juries. Their Lordships attended Divine service at the Cathedral on Monday afternoon; and on Tuesday morning Mr Justice Wightman took his seat in the Nisi Prius court, and Mr Justice Erskine presided in the Crown Court.

The following gentlemen were sworn on the Grand Jury: - Messrs. John Benett, M.P., H. Seymour, A. Powell, R. H. B. Hale, Thomas Grove, Jnr., George Marcham, F. W. Rooke, James Hussey, Charles Wandham, G. E. Eyre, William Grove, P. H. H. Phipps, John Havenhill, T. E. Fowle, T. H. Saunders, John Clarke, John Tylee, J. H. Jacob, H. S. Olivier, H. Hetley, R. Hedey, F. A. S. Lincke, and Edw. Cooper.

Mr Justice Erskine then proceeded to charge the Grand Jury. He expressed great regret that the calendar should have borne such strong evidence to mark the progress of immorality among the lower orders of people – showing a disposition to commit every sort of pilfering, whenever an opportunity was afforded them. After adverting to some of the cases in the calendar, his Lordship added his earnest wish, that the gentlemen of the county would take every measure in their power to advance the moral state of the population. It was in vain to hope for improvement in the conduct of the poorer classes, unless, in addition to being honest, they impressed upon them the value of morality. Instruction would be useless unless based upon religion: it must be brought home to their door, and it was only by the exertions of those whom God had blessed with virtue and with wealth, that they could hope for improvement. It was the duty of every man to advance, as far as he could, the religious instruction of the poor.

Sentences of the whole of the prisoners:-

Death:

James Taylor

Transportation for Life:

William Goulden.

Transportation for 15 Years:

William Gardener William Knight Stephen Lodge Hugh Nash George Butler

Transportation for 14 Years:

Daniel Pit John Jenner George Dubben

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 18 Months

William Scott David Chipp

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 12 Months

Isaiah Short Thomas Gray Robert Sheppard John Baker John Little Samuel Perry

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 9 Months

George Trimby Thomas Davies

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 8 Months

Stephen Gardner

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 6 Months

Thomas Tabor Joseph Hazell William Hoskins William Nott John Alexander John Case
John Self William Tyrrell James Weston.

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 4 Months

James Blake Harry Arnold

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 3 Months

Joseph Hunt William Wiltshire William Cable Frederick Varney John Giddings Richard
Wheeler John Webb William Elkins John Cully William Seymour Thomas Seymour
William White Henry Hall John Snowden James Craddock Alfred Papps James Mitton

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 2 Months

Simon Nairn Jonathan Plumb

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 6 Weeks

Lewanna Moody Fanny Harris Sarah Futcher George Brundon

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 1 Month

George Ackland Edw. Mattock William Anslow

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 20 Days

William Nicholas

Imprisonment with Hard Labour: 14 Days

James Mills

The trials of Worthy and Charles Bridgeman were deferred till the next Assizes.

Acquitted or Had No Bills Found Against Them:

Prudence Cooper William Prosser John Angell John Trollop Simon Watts James Stagg
Charles Poore Maria Edwards William Kemp William Lane James Young John Hull
Benjamin Jennings William Ruby Richard Turvey Edw. Hull Thomas Wise Caroline Wise
William Sloper James Wicks James Hollester.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Monday, 8 March 1841

OPC Note:- More detailed reports of the proceedings can be found in the newspaper