



Calne Borough Police

The Case of Hannah Reeves

5th November 1869

Friday Nov 5th – (before C.Pinniger, esq., Mayor, and Thomas Harris, esq., ex-Mayor) – Hannah Reeves, a respectable and intelligent looking girl, 15 years of age, was charged with stealing 50 sovereigns the property of her aunt, Mrs. Rawlings of the Green, Calne. Ann Rawlings stated that at the beginning of October she had 60 sovereigns, which she kept in a little box, inside a large box in her bedroom.

The little box was not locked but the large box was locked and the keys were sometimes left about.

On Friday the 29th of October, she found only 10 sovereigns out of the 60 left, and charged the prisoner who was her servant, with stealing the 50 sovereigns, which she denied. Inspector White apprehended the prisoner on the following Monday morning and told her the charge, which she denied, saying she knew nothing about it. On the next day, whilst prisoner was in the lock-up she called the inspector in and told him she had taken the money, and given £15 to Jane Pullen.

Prisoner also told him where she had spent the remainder of the money (chiefly at drapers' shops in the town), and furnished him with the names of servant girls and children to whom she had made presents, and from whom he recovered the articles she named. The prisoner having decided to have the case settled summarily, pleaded guilty.

After due deliberation the Bench found her guilty, and the Mayor, in passing sentence, said the prisoner had previously taken £3 from her aunt, which had been forgiven. If on this occasion she had acknowledged her guilt and shown some signs of repentance, the Bench would have taken a more lenient view of the case. Sentence, 3 months' imprisonment with hard labour. The £45 has not been recovered. Jane Pullen a respectable domestic servant, who had been in custody in connection with this case, was discharged, there being no evidence against her.

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