Staffordshire Sentinel and Commercial & General Advertiser
Saturday 03 December 1870

BURSLEM.—Tuesday. (Before J. Balguy. Esq.)

Aggravated Assault at Milton.—James Ball, butcher, was charged with having assaulted John Smith, atty collier, of Milton. Mr. Sutton was for the complainant. The complainant appeared in Court with two black eyes, his face indicating that had been much abused. He produced a pocket handkerchief covered with blood, with which it was said had "mopped" the blood off his face after he was assaulted. The evidence was that on the night of the 22nd ult., complainant started from Burslem to go home about half-past seven o'clock. When he got near Hotlane toll-gate was joined by defendant, who accosted him, and asked him where was going. He told him. and defendant said : I am going Bagnall "we'll walk on together." They walked together for some time, and then called at a roadside inn, and had some beer, complainant paying for the beer which defendant drank. They went on together along the road, and when they got into a cutting, which is a dark part road, complainant received a severe blow upon his forehead, which brought him down upon one knee. Defendant then struck him a blow upon the face. They struggled together and while they were down defendant got upon complainant and tore his coat open. Whether he intended rob complainant or not, Smith was unable say. After they walked on together, grumbling about what had occurred. Defendant offered to pay for some beer when they got to Milton, to make it square. When they got to Milton, complainant went at once and gave information to the police. —Defendant said that as they were going along the road Smith challenged him saying that he was as good a man he. They decided to fight, stripped, and fought two rounds -Complainant denied all this—The Milton policeman and complainant wife described the sad state in which Smith was in when he got to Milton.—Mr. Balguy said it was as bad a case at assault ever he had before him, and he was not quite sure whether he ought not send the case for trial. The Stipendiary decided to commit Ball to gaol for two months.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

CREDLE.—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH.
(Before Colonel Bowyer, Colonel Bridgen, Joseph Sampson, Esq.)

GAME TRESPASSERS.—George Bolton, Joseph Jarrett, Thomas Bolton, and Thomas Bolton, all of Tunstall, were charged by Mr. Ward, rent-receiver to Lord Granville, with having trespassed on Nov. 12th, in Cheadle Parish. Mr. E. Bagnall appeared for the defendants.

Edward Wilson, of Alton, stonemason, was fined 20s. and costs for being drunk and riotous at Alton on November 19th. Defendant had been convicted for a similar offence before.

EXCISE CASE.—Mr. Samuel Cobb, druggist and grocer, of Cheadle, and Mr. Thomas Bowyer, of Tunstall, brewer, were both summoned for selling one quart of spirituous whisper, less by one-tenth than the quantity of the peculiar one. Mr. Bowyer pleaded guilty to the charge, and said he had sent the whisper in his employ, and had received a fine of 20s. and costs. Mr. Cobb said he was ignorant of the quality of Cheadle for the Hanchester, and had purchased the whisper in good faith. Mr. Bowyer said the Wines Head Hotel, at Cheadle, was kept by Mr. Cotton, which a customer had reported their choice of Mr. Cotton's whisper, and he had purchased it. Mr. Cobb said he was ignorant of the quality of the whisper, and had purchased it in good faith. It could be inferred that some complaint had been made to the Excise Office, and he was consequently two excise officers into a cheapest from Cheadle to Tunstall, and they had seized the whisper. Mr. Cobb had purchased the whisper, and not the Wines Head Hotel, and then and there he handed it over to them. Mr. Bowyer said he was sorry he had caused Cobb's customer trouble, and he had paid the fine. Mr. Cobb said he was ignorant of the law, although Mr. Cobbs received the whisper in good faith, and he was ignorant of the law, neither to sell for Mr. Hammond, to better his (Mr. Cobbs) customer. Mr. Hammond said he was sorry he had made complaint, and he had paid the fine and costs. He had after considerable argument (Mr. Bowyer) consented to the fine and costs, and he was sorry he had caused Mr. Cobb any inconvenience. The Bench considered the offence was one arising from ignorance of the intricacies of the law, and they fined Mr. Cobb 20s. and costs, and Mr. Bowyer 10s. and costs. Mr. Bowyer said he was Licensed Victualler the case for Mr. Hammond, who was consulted in matters of excise, and he had thought he could not with much consultation that no prejudice could be entertained of experience. He was sorry he had caused the inconvenience.

MARKET DRAYTON.—SATURDAY.
(Before Sampson Jennings, Esq.)

FALSE WEIGHTS.—Thomas Bowyer, of Tunstall, was made to Francis Whitehurst, inspector of weights and measures for the borough of Newcastle, for a false weight, and was fined 10s. and costs, or 14 days. Mr. Whitehurst said he had visited the Wines Head Hotel, in Cheadle, and Samuel Lewis, grocer, of Wrexham, and in each case a false weight was found. He had fined each a 7 pound weight half an ounce light. Mr. Bowyer said he was ignorant of the law, and had purchased the weights in good faith, and had never been before the Magistrates before, by reason of a piece of iron put on. It was attributed to the carelessness of the workmen. The Bench said the offence was a very serious one, and they fined Mr. Bowyer, and Mr. Lewis, Mr. Jones, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Jones, of Wrexham, and Mr. Lewis, of Wrexham, and Mr. Lewis, of Wrexham, and Mr. Lewis