



Kettering Petty Sessions Wednesday, 25th July 1883.

Before W C Thornhill Esq' in the chair), S. Soames, Esq, J. J. Roughton Esq and J - T - Stockburn, Esq

Alleged Assault.—George Hawkes, foreman clicker, Kettering, was charged with assaulting Margaretta Smith, a girl 13 years and 8 months old, on the 13th July.—The complainant, who is a machine-girl in the employ of Messrs' Spence and Son, of Tanners-lane Works (where the prisoner occupies the position of foreman clicker), stated that she had occasion to apply to the prisoner on the day named for some "linings," and in order to obtain the articles she had to accompany him to the leather-room, where the assault complained of was committed. Evidence was given the complainant's sister and another female witness, for the purpose of showing that the girl complained of the defendant's behaviour towards her immediately after she returned from his (defendant's) room and it was also stated that the defendant had himself expressed his sorrow for what he had done. —Mr Rawlins, who acted on the defendant's behalf, closely cross-examined the complainant and witnesses, but without in any degree shaking their testimony.—Afterwards, in addressing the Bench in defendant's behalf, Mr Rawlins admitted that his client's behaviour was not entirely defensible, but he submitted that the evidence showed very little harm had been caused to the complainant, and he hoped, under the circumstances, the Bench would feel justified in so altering the term of the charge as to permit of the offence being dealt with summarily.—The magistrates, after retiring to consider the case announced, through the chairman, that the gravity of the case was such that they did not feel justified in dealing directly with it, and the defendant was, therefore, committed to the Quarter Sessions at Northampton. Defendant was afterwards bound over, himself in £40, and two sureties of £20, to appear and answer the charge.

Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions Thurs Oct 18th 1883

#### THURSDAY TRIALS OF PRISONERS

The trials of prisoners commenced this morning. The calendar contained the names of fifteen prisoners, all of whom, with but one exception, were described as being imperfectly educated or possessing no education whatever. In the Crown Court H. M. Stockdale, Esq (chairman), presided, and the magistrates present were Rev. Sir F. Robinson, Bart., C. Smyth, Esq, E. Grant, Esq J. A. S. Bouverie, Esq and Lieut.-Col. Thornton. The following gentlemen were sworn on The Grand Jury Mr L. Foster, Irthlingborough (foreman). Mr R. H. Bird, Wicken Mr C. Franklin, Shutlanger Mr B. Blott Welling- Mr J. Goodman, Bradden borough Mr W. Griggs, Hartwell Mr T Browning, Stanwick Mr J. Linnell Paulersbury Mr J. Edwards, Woodend, Mr W. Maxwell, Bozeat Towcester Mr H. J. Mills, Welling- Mr W. Edwards, Blakesley borough Mr G. Fortescue, Irchester Mr H. Phipps, Hardwick Mr T. Hawkes, Mear's Mr T. Sanders, jun Wilby Ashby Mr J. Taylor, Woodend, Mr N. Hemens Welling-Towcester borough Mr T. Walker, Strixton In chairing the Grand Jury, the Chairman remarked that the evidence in the various cases to come before them was of a very simple character, and they would experience no difficulty finding true bills.

The Grand Jury ignored the bill against George Hawkes (on bail), indicted for feloniously assaulting Margaretta Smith, at Kettering, on the 18th July, 1883[found no case to answer]