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THE ATTEMPTED RESCUE OF VINCENT IN 1839

POLICE INTELLIGENCE

NEWPORT POLICE.

MONDAY, Nov 16, 1841

Before His Worship the Mayor,
T. Hawkins, W. Brewer, and
T. Hughes, Esqrs., Borough
Magistrates, and Thomas
Prothero, Esqr., Magistrate for the
County.

Mr. Hawkins presented himself this day to qualify as Justice in the Commission of the Peace for this borough. Mr. Hughes, addressing Mr. Hawkins in an under tone said. "I hope you mean to take the oath of allegiance Mr. Hawkins?" Mr. Hawkins "Yes, I do. I have taken it upon every occasion when I have been required to do so."

Some conversation here took place between Mr. Brewer and Mr. Hawkins the purport of which did not reach us but Mr Hawkins turned round and said "yes there are some persons here who have refused to take it: there for instance is one," pointing to the Mayor. Mr Brewer we understood to reply that he would not sit with a magistrate who would refuse to take the oath of allegiance.

The Mayor said that he thought that he had taken the oath and that if he had not, it was an accidental omission.

(The full report can be found here:-

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/3393575/3393578/17/henry%20vincent>)

THE ATTEMPTED RESCUE OF VINCENT IN 1839.

Charles James, a sweep, was charged with attempting to rescue Henry Vincent on the 10th of May, 1839, and with assaulting James Jones, on Saturday night last. Readers may remember



the arrest of Vincent in May 1839 and his examination before the magistrates at the Kings Head on which occasion the prisoner rendered himself notorious as a daring partisan of Vincent by assaulting the special constable with a sooty brush, with which, he unceremoniously, by changing sides, smutted his opponents face or knocked his hat over his eyes,

A warrant was then issued for his apprehension, but he contrived to elude the vigilance of the police and laughed at the endeavours to secure so formidable a Chartist as "Jim, the Sweep". Secure in his own estimation however he returned to Newport recently and on Saturday

night last fell in Company with the prosecutor who from an impediment in his speech is nicknamed Jemmy Too-Toot. The prosecutor, it appears, was conspicuous in the days of Chartist arrests as an able constable and meeting thus unexpectedly with James on Saturday night, some conversation ensued between the parties of the "Gardener's Arms" in Market Street when the prisoner asked him to go to the "Ship-On-Launch" to partake of a pot of beer with him. On the road thither, however the prosecutor threatened to "blow his (expletive deleted*) brains out". Notwithstanding this discourteous treatment they both went to the "Ship-On-Launch" and in the kitchen of that home while the servant was drawing the beer, Prisoner again laid hold of prosecutor, throated him, and swore that if he had a pistol, he would "blow his (expletive deleted) brains out" Jones asked him why? James replied, for swearing false against Frost and the other Chartists adding, I'll "blow your (expletive deleted) brains out before I leave this town". The police was (sic) called and James taken into custody. From other evidence adduced, and from the cross examination shrewdly put by the Chartist, It subsequently appeared the James first commenced to talk about the Chartists: that they drank beer at the ship launch friendly together: that though they had some trifling scuffles, yet the witnesses saw no thing alarming and instead of James throating Jones, it was represented as vice versa. Mr Prothero put many searching questions to Jones which shook his testimony considerably and it was made to appear that James had been in Newport once or twice since the Chartist disturbances and had been seen by the police but was never arrested. His worship then addressed the Prisoner saying the gentleman with me have considered that the complaint against you for assault should be dismissed. Mr. Prothero then asked Jones if he intended to press the charge of attempting to rescue Vincent? He said he did. The magistrate thought however

that he could have been arrested before, and as a very long period had elapsed he would not entertain the second charge. James said " if the gentleman will allow me to go, I'll leave the town at once and endeavour to keep the peace towards her Majesty's lieges. As for the Chartist system, I've not so much inclination that way now".

Verdict: Admonished and allowed to depart.

*** The Monmouthshire Merlin was very cautious about the use of profane language.**