

William Thompson, 1923, Pyrenees

Adelaide, July 1856

Suspicion of Felony. **William Stanley, alias John Green, William Hodges, William Thompson and George Atkinson**, were charged on suspicion of having broken into the dwelling house of John Clark jun, Brighton, and stolen £38 in Bank notes on Sunday last. Mr Andrews appeared for the prosecution. Mr Parker for G Atkinson, and Mr Smith for the other prisoners. John Clark, farmer, Tapley's Hill knew Stanley, who had worked for the witnesses father during last ploughing season, when he went by the name of Green. On Saturday last saw the prisoner in Adelaide, when he asked witness if he had sold his bullocks. He replied, yes, for £35. Prisoner said he then lodged at the Flagstaff Inn. On Saturday night witness put £38 in notes in a box, which was placed in a closet upstairs, over the staircase. Both the door of the latter and the box were locked. On Sunday morning witness went from home, having locked all the doors, five in number; and, on his return, about 9 in the evening, found the front-door half open. On examining the other doors, found the locks had been picked. The box was broken open and the money taken. He left a dog tied up to watch the premises, which had been let loose. Richard George, driver of the Eclipse, Brighton omnibus, remembered seeing four men walking down the South-road, near the Hand and Heart public house, together, about 4 o'clock on Sunday evening. Identified Hodges and Atkinson. They were going towards Mr Clark's house. John Cocking jun, son of the landlord of the Flagstaff Inn, deposed that, as he was returning from Adelaide about 6 on Sunday evening, he overtook four men going in the direction of the prosecutors house. Could not identify any of them. Green had lodged at his father's for about a fortnight. Sergeant Badman – Knew the prisoners for about four months. Had frequently seen them together. **Thompson had recently arrived from Melbourne**. Saw three of them together on Saturday night in the City Bridge Inn. Atkinson, Hodges and Thompson occupied a house together in Brown-street, in which was only a box containing old clothes. Apprehended Stanley in the Castle Inn on Monday. Witness asked him what his name was. He said "Why do you wish to know?" Witness replied that he was a policeman, and apprehended him on suspicion of felony. Prisoner said his name was Stanley; that he came in the Than of Fife from England. Witness said that he did not come thence, on which the prisoner admitted he came from Fremantle. Prisoner said he had been working at Tapley's Hill. Took him into custody on Tuesday evening in company with Shackel and another policeman. Took Thompson and Hodges in to custody. On the former he found £9 9s 6d and on Hodges £1 6s, in notes, gold and silver. Took Atkinson in the Cumberland Arms, and on searching him in a private room he put on the table £57 10s in notes and gold. On searching the house where prisoners lived they found seven files which Hodges said were his. The files produced were sharpened at the point as if intended for use as picklocks. Mr Andrews said there was no further evidence at present, but begged the prisoners might be remanded. Mr Parker and Mr Smith contended that there was no evidence against their clients, who should be discharged. His worship said he was informed there evidence would be forthcoming, and he should remand all the prisoners till Monday. Bail was applied for on behalf of Atkinson, which His Worship said he would take provided due notice was given to the police to institute the necessary enquiry.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thu 24 Jul 1856, p2

Further information:

Atkinson, Hodges and Thompson were discharged, **Stanley** acquitted in August.

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