

THE POLICE COURTS .

Daily News (London, England), Friday, January 25, 1856; Issue 3023.

MARYLEBONE.

Edward Basley, a tall, powerfully-made man, who described himself to be a French polisher, and who refused to give his address, was placed at the bar before Mr. Long, charged with having, in conjunction with another man, not in custody, attempted to murder Mr. Eugene Comerford Clarkson, barrister, of No. 53, Cleveland-square, Paddington, under the following circumstances :

The prosecutor stated that about 1 o'clock that morning he was returning home along the Bayswater-road, having a carpet bag and an umbrella in his hands, when he was suddenly seized hold of by a man who came behind him, and who afterwards grasped his throat with both his hands. The prisoner immediately came in front of him, and made a snatch at the gold chain which was suspended from his neck, and to which was attached a gold watch in his waistcoat pocket. The chain broke, but he succeeded in taking possession of the watch, with a portion of the chain. While the prisoner was doing this he struggled with the other man, who called out to the prisoner to take the pistol out of his pocket and shoot him (prosecutor). He released himself from the other man, and then

attacked them both with his fists. They both ran away. He pursued and overtook them near Sussex-square, where one of the men called upon the other to shoot him. He continued to follow them. When near Hyde Park Gardens, they took up some stones to throw at him, but did not do so. He again got up to them, and they again went off as fast as they could, pursued by him (prosecutor); he overtook them at a spot where there was no thoroughfare. While he was struggling with them a policeman came up, whom he told that he had been robbed by them. The other man then ran away. Prosecutor told the officer to go after him, and stated that he would take care of the prisoner. Another constable soon after came up into whose custody he gave the prisoner. As they were going to the station house, the prisoner made a determined resistance. He was eventually thrown on the ground and overpowered. When the prisoner got up, the policeman found on the ground a gold watch, with an Albert chain and appendages attached, which witnesses identified. Prisoner was taken to the station-house. The other man has not been taken.

Mr. Long asked if that was the whole of the property found?

Mr. Clarkson replied that the whole had been recovered. He had forgot to mention that the carpet bag and umbrella had either been dropped by him or had been taken from him at first. He also lost a gold stud which the prisoner snatched from his shirt. The carpet bag and umbrella were found near the spot where he was stopped by a policeman, who brought it to the station-house while he was there. Other articles were also found in the road. (The police-constable produced the whole of the articles.)

In answer to Mr. Long, the prosecutor said that there was a dressing case in the carpet bag, and that the value of all the property was about 22l.

The prisoner made a statement denying that he was the person connected with the robbery.

Mr. Long remarked that it was fortunate for the ends of justice Mr. Clarkson had exhibited the courage he had, and that he should send the prisoner for trial. But he should remand him, to afford the police an opportunity to apprehend the other man.

He was accordingly remanded for a week.

THE TIMES

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—Feb. 8.

The Morning Post (London, England), Saturday, February 09, 1856; pg. 7; Issue 25617

*Edmund Besley*, who pleaded guilty to having assaulted Eugene Comerford Clarkson, and robbed him, was brought up for sentence. The prisoner said he had never before been committed, and had been out of work when he committed the offence.

The police said they had known him some short time as the associate of some ticket-of-leave men.

The Recorder said he had postponed his sentence because there was a man, supposed to be his comrade, in custody; but as he was discharged by the magistrate, he should proceed to pass sentence. Offenders like him were of the worst class, and he should always punish them with the utmost severity; such attacks were likely to lead to bloodshed. Had he inflicted any more serious injury upon Mr. Clarkson, he should have transported him for life, but as he had not, the sentence would be one of 14 years' transportation.

The prisoner who, up to this time, had imploringly begged he might be again allowed to see his poor old mother, no sooner heard the sentence than he changed his tone and threatened Mr. Clarkson, who was in the court, and was with difficulty overpowered and taken away.

*Henry Murreau*, convicted last session, was brought up