

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT—Jan. 6.

Antrehman, aged 39, and Samut, aged 25, Malay sailors, were indicted for feloniously cutting and wounding Hassan, a Chinese, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm.

An interpreter having been sworn,

Mr Baron Gurney asked him whether he was acquainted with the mode of administering an oath to a Chinese? The interpreter replied in the affirmative.

Mr Baron Gurney—Are you aware whether the form of oath about to be administered is considered binding?

The Interpreter—I have frequently seen the oath so administered, and I believe it to be binding.

The prosecutor was then called, and on getting into the witness-box immediately knelt down, and a China saucer having been placed in his hand, he immediately broke it on the rail at the top of the witness-box.

Harker, one of the officers of the Court, then administered the oath in the following words, which were repeated by the interpreter:—

“ You shall tell the truth and the whole truth; the saucer is cracked, and if you do not tell the truth, your soul will be cracked like the saucer.”

It appeared that the prosecutor, with the prisoners and a number of other Chinese and Malays came to England in a vessel called the Scaleby Castle. On the 16th of December a dispute arose between the different countrymen, which ended in a general quarrel, during which Samut pushed the prosecutor down, and it was alleged that Antrehman stabbed him with a knife in the face.

The surgeon who was called to the prosecutor proved that he had received a flesh wound in the face of about an inch and a half in length, and a quarter of an inch in depth.

In the cross-examination of the witnesses by Mr Phillips, it was elicited that the prosecutor's face was much bruised, and it was admitted that the wound might have been caused by his falling upon some East India canes which were upon the deck of the vessel.

Mr Justice Wightman intimated, that the offence amounted to a common assault only.

Mr Phillips addressed the Jury on behalf of the prisoners, and said he could not deny that an assault had been committed by Antrehman, but submitted that the evidence did not inculcate Samut.

The Learned Judge having summed up.

The Jury returned a verdict of Guilty against Antrehman of a common assault, and acquitted the other prisoner.

Mr Justice Wightman having been informed that the vessel would sail in about three weeks or a month, sentenced the prisoner to 14 days' imprisonment in Newgate.