

THE STABBING CASE AT PENARTH.

On Monday, at the Police-court, before the Rev. H. H. Rickards and Mr. J. S. Corbett, the Malay, charged with stabbing Inspector Adams and Mr. Lovett, was brought up on remand. The prisoner is a small man, about 5 feet 3 inches in height. It was a long and tedious inquiry, as all the evidence had to be interpreted to the prisoner.

Police-constable Rees Williams said he was on duty in Penarth in the morning of the 18th July, with Police-constable Weston. About 1 a.m. he heard knocking at the Ship Hotel door. The inspector sent them down to see what it was, and found a woman named Mary Ann Weston, a man named Hodgkinson, and the prisoner Jose Francisco and another foreigner. Told them to leave, as it was too late to have any more drink. They were cursing and swearing, and wanted more drink. The Englishman and the woman were the worse for drink, and he believed the foreigners were also. The inspector then came, and told the foreigners to go on board. The Englishman said he was in a free country, and would not go. The woman also said she would not until she had had more drink. The inspector told witness to take the woman into custody, and Police-constable Weston to take Hodgkinson. They did so, and when near the Royal Hotel the foreigners came after them. They rushed at Police-constable Weston, and had a scuffle. Police-constable Weston fell, the prisoner on the top of him. The three were down together. Witness let the woman go, and he took Francisco off Weston. The inspector told them to let the prisoner go, as they had knives out. The woman said something to the foreigners, which witness did not understand, but which appeared to make them very savage. Francisco made a dash at witness with his knife in his right hand, and witness kept him off with his staff. Prisoner then rushed at the inspector, who hit him over the head with his walking-stick. The woman called to witness to look behind. He turned round and saw the other foreigner with his knife in his hand. He then saw Francisco push with his left hand and then his right against the inspector. The inspector shouted out that he was stabbed, and to knock the men down. Both P.C. Weston and witness did their best to keep the foreigners off the inspector. The inspector then called to them to get their cutlasses, as the men had knives, and there were six more about somewhere. They did so. The inspector was before them in starting, and they followed him. The foreigners followed them as far as the Plymouth Hotel. They obtained their cutlasses, and the inspector told them to call up Mr. Lovett and Mr. Howells to help them. When at the station he saw a little blood on Adams's clothes. They went in search of the foreigners—the inspector, Police-constable Weston, witness, Mr. Lovett, Mr. Howells, and Duggan. After some time they found the prisoner. Other foreigners were standing near the Plymouth. The inspector told witness to go in to them, and he did so. Mr. Lovett followed, and asked witness for his staff, as he had a cutlass. He gave him the staff, and he rushed in and made a blow at the prisoner, but the staff slipped out of his hand. The prisoner then ran away, and Lovett after him. Witness and Howells followed. On the road leading to the dock, near the Royal Hotel, he saw Lovett and the prisoner fall, in a scuffle. He believed it was Howells that knocked the prisoner down. Lovett called to witness to hold the prisoner, as he was stabbed. Prisoner was getting up again and coming towards witness, and he struck prisoner with his cutlass. He held him fast on the ground. Howells and Duggan assisted, and witness apprehended the prisoner. He was quite certain prisoner was the man. He saw him strike Adams with the knife.

Inspector Adams repeated, in substance, the evidence given by Police-constable Rees Williams. He said he told the constables to take the two for rescue. The woman spoke to the foreigners, and they became very savage. Prisoner made towards Police-constable Williams with a knife in his hand. Witness struck the prisoner twice with his stick. Prisoner then turned round and stabbed witness in the left breast. He did not feel the knife, but the blood running down his person. Told the constables to get their cutlasses, and whilst at the station he showed the wound to his wife. Left the station to search for the men, and when he had gone about 100 yards he met Mr. Lovett coming back groaning bitterly. Proceeded on, and assisted in taking the prisoner into custody. Sent for Dr. Paine, and had been confined to the house fourteen days. The knife, which was found after, fitted the sheath which prisoner had when brought to the station.

Dr. Paine said he was sent for on the night in question, and found Adams with a wound on the left side, just below the ribs. It was a narrow wound, about half an inch in width and about two inches deep. It took a direction along the lower margin of the rib, towards the collar-bone. It was a serious wound. The knife produced would inflict such a wound. He examined prisoner's head, and found there was a large wound on it.

Police-constable Weston gave corroborative evidence, and said he was present when the knife produced was picked up on the spot where the scuffle between Mr. Lovett and the prisoner occurred.

Mr. H. Lovett, the landlord of the Windsor Hotel, described the affair in general terms like the previous witnesses. The prisoner ran away after witness aimed a blow at him with the constable's staff. He followed the prisoner, and when near the Royal, prisoner turned half round and stabbed him in the right breast. It was a violent blow. He was in the house nine days in consequence.

Dr. Paine said the wound on Mr. Lovett was externally about the same size as that on Adams, but it was three inches deep, and penetrated through the muscles of the ribs. It was a serious wound.

After some further evidence, the prisoner was committed for trial at the next assizes.