

The Trial of George Woolgar, Police Constable 210 N – Part 1

The Times Issue 31 December, 1869

“At WORSHIP-STREET, GEORGE WOOLGAR, police-constable 210 N, was charged, on remand, with assaulting Sarah Garton, and robbing her of 2s 7½d. Inspector Ramsay, of the N division, watched the case on behalf of the Commissioners of Police, at whose instance the prisoner was being prosecuted. The prosecutrix, who lives in Emma-street, Haggerstone, deposed that about 2 o'clock on the morning of the 24th inst. she met the prisoner in Pritchard's-row, Hackney. He was on duty and in uniform. He made improper proposals to her, but she refused to listen to them. The prisoner, however, persisted in walking by her side, and when they got near Marion-square he threw her down on the stones. He then put his hand into her pocket and took out a purse which contained 2s 7½d. A few moments afterwards he returned the purse empty, and, on the prosecutrix asking him for the money, he said that he would have her charged with highway robbery. The prosecutrix, frightened at what he said, ran away. She told the landlady of the house in which she lived what had occurred, and on the following day gave information to the police. The prisoner was subsequently identified by her. Inspector Ramsay stated that, in consequence of what the prosecutrix said, he ordered 18 constables, one of whom was the prisoner, to be paraded before her. She picked out the prisoner without hesitation. The prisoner denied having seen her at all on the morning in question. Inspector Ramsay added that Marion-square was a part of the prisoner's beat, and that in the course of duty he would be there about 2 o'clock. John Fisher, a baker, living in Hans-place, Hackney, said that about 2 o'clock on the morning of the 24th he saw the prisoner walking by the prosecutrix's side in the Hackney-road. He told Inspector Ramsay on the following Sunday. Police-constable Scott, 273 N, stated that one morning last week he was on duty in Pritchard's-row, on the companion beat to the prisoner's, when the latter came up and said to him, “I've had a jolly lark with a girl; I've got 1s 1½d. or 2s 1½d. out of her”. Witness could not recollect the precise time this occurred, but he had given the prisoner's words correctly. He told the prisoner that unless he took care he would be getting himself into trouble. On hearing that a robbery had been committed, and seeing the constables paraded before the prosecutrix, he remembered what had been said to him, and felt sure the prisoner was the man. Inspector Ramsay said this was all the evidence that he could collect. The prisoner, on receiving the usual caution from the magistrate, said a good deal of the prosecutrix's statement was entirely false. The magistrate fully committed him to Newgate for trial at the Central Criminal Court.”