

Ipswich Journal, 30 March 1844

SATURDAY, March 23.

Joseph and Elijah Brown and Charles Whiterod were indicted for assaulting and wounding William Brown, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

Mr. Worlledge conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Leapingwell the defence.

The prosecutor is constable of the parish of Isleham, in which parish the prisoners lived, and are labourers in husbandry. It appeared that it is the practice of the constable to visit the public-houses in his district at 11 o'clock every night, in order to see that they are by that hour cleared of the customers, and that good order and rule generally are observed therein. On the 24th of last month he called at the above mentioned hour at the Harp Inn, for the purpose before stated, and found the prisoners and others there. He desired them to pack up their traps, and quit the place, which they did without a murmur. They, however, loitered in the street near the door, and, as the constable said, began kicking up a row, to the nuisance and disturbance of the neighbourhood. The man of law requested him to desist and go quietly home, but "the more he requested, the more they would not," and the row and disturbance continued. The constable then went out and repeated his requests, which he now urged as a command, but Elijah Brown swore he would not go home, not he; the public highway was as free for them as for others. Threats of the "cage" were then used, but to no purpose, for the party swore they would not be taken there by anybody in Isleham, and the fray waxed hotter and fiercer, in the midst of which one of the Browns pulled the constable down and kicked him. The officer on regaining his legs called on Whiterod

to aid and assist him in the Queen's name; in answer to which Whiterod told him to go to a very warm place, and, saying he would kill him, gave him a violent blow which felled him. The prisoners beat and kicked him whilst he was on the ground, and used him most unmercifully. Joseph Brown called upon him to show "his staff, his authority," and swore his brother should not be taken to the cage by anybody who could not show the Queen's staff, "the only proof of his right." Having beaten the prosecutor to their hearts' content, they all fled, and the landlord of the Harp went to his assistance; but as he was dragging him into the inn the prisoners returned, and regretting that they had not "done" for him, gave him a few parting salutes. They then placed themselves, two on one side and one on the other of the Harp door, evidently for the purpose of waylaying the prosecutor. He was, however, too much injured to enable him to go forth that night, and was put to bed, and his wounds attended to by the village surgeon. He was found to have received injuries about the head, which threatened pressure on the brain, and the most fatal consequences, which, however, did not ensue.

Mr. Justice Patteson having summed up the evidence, the jury had no difficulty in finding the prisoners Guilty, and they were transported for 15 years, the learned Judge observing on the necessity of protecting the peaceable portion of society, and the lives of those whose duty called upon them to act in support of the law.