

moneys of gold and silver, and truly report if the said moneys be in weight and fineness according to the Queen's standard in the Treasury for coins; and also if the same moneys be sufficient in alloy, and according to the covenants comprised in an indenture thereof, bearing date the 6th day of February, 1817, and made between his late Majesty, King George the Third, and the Right Hon. William Wellesley Pole. So help you, God." The above oath having been administered, the president gives his charge to the jury, that they examine by fire, by water, by touch, or by weight, or by all or by some of them, in the most just manner, whether the moneys were made according to the indenture and standard trial pieces, and within the remedies.

The jury then retire to the court room of the Duchy of Lancaster, whether the pix is removed, together with the weights of the Exchequer and Mint, and then the scales which are used on these occasions are suspended, the beam of which is so delicate that it will turn with the merest trifle, when loaded with the whole of the weights, 48lb 8oz. in each scale.

The jury being seated the pix is opened, and the money, which had been taken out of each delivery and deposited therein, inclosed in a paper parcel, under the seals of the Warden, Master, and Comptroller of the Mint is given into the hands of the foreman, who reads aloud the indorsement, and compares it with the account that lies before him. He then delivers the parcel to one of the jury, who opens it and examines whether the contents agree with the indorsement. When all the parcels have been opened, and found to be right, the moneys contained in them are mixed together in wooden bowls and afterwards weighed. Out of the moneys so mingled the jury take a certain number of each species of coin to the amount of a pound weight for the assay by fire; and, the indented tria-pieces of the gold and silver of the dates specified in the indenture being produced by the proper officer, a sufficient quantity is cut from either of them for the purpose of comparing with it the pound weight of gold or silver which is to be tried, after it has been previously melted and prepared by the usual method of assay.

When that operation is finished the jury return their verdict, wherein they state the manner in which the coins they have examined have been found to vary from the weight and fineness required by the indenture, and whether and how much the variations exceed or fall short of the remedies which are allowed; and according to the terms of the verdict the master's *quietus* is either granted or withheld.

As far back as there is any record of these proceedings, to the honour of those gentlemen who have held the important office of Master of the Mint be it told, there has never been a deviation from the appointed standard of value.
—*Bankers' Magazine.*

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

When Dr. Watts wrote hymns for future generations of juveniles, and gave currency to the profound sentiment contained in the line—

"It is a sin to steal a pin,"

he never contemplated the punishment of such a sin committed by a child by any other human authority than that of the parent or guardian of the culprit. It is very true in theory that even such a fault as stealing a pin comes within the province of the law, and that, notwithstanding the well-know maxim *de minimis non curat lex*; but we must protest against the administrators of justice being called in to do the work of the schoolmaster, and take cognizance of offences which would be more properly dealt with by a birch rod or an "imposition."

From a report taken from the *Birmingham Daily Post* we find that a child, whose age is variously stated at nine, ten, and eleven years, and who is a scholar in Inkberrow Sunday School, was brought before the magistrates sitting in petty session at Redditch for stealing a penny out of the pocket of a fellow-scholar. The report runs as follow:—

The vicar, the Rev. G. R. Gray, who is chairman, of the bench of magistrates, being informed of the petty theft, after making some inquiries into the case, instructed the village policeman to take the girl to the lock-up which was done on Monday last. Substantial bail, we believe, was offered, but the Rev. Mr. Gray refused to accept it.

On the following Friday the case was to be heard, and we are left to suppose the child was kept in the lock-up for about four days until that time, and this would have been the case but that the compassion of the policeman moved him to take her out of the cell and keep her in his own house. Meantime some sympathizing friends had employed an attorney to defend the little prisoner. At the sitting of the bench were three justices to decide on this important prosecution, when, after it had been asserted that this was not a first offence, a statement which was denied on the part of the prisoner, the chairman said "he never intended to go on with the case, and he merely sent the child to the lock-up to punish her."

No evidence being produced the case was dismissed but the prisoner's advocate objecting to this mode of settling the question, she was again placed in the dock, and the case adjourned to a future day, bail being this time accepted.

At the adjourned hearing the magistrates unanimously discharged the prisoner, in the belief that there was no felonious intent.

We have heard of nurses who indulge in the most reprehensible practice of threatening children with sundry and dire punishments for the purpose of inducing obedience to lawful commands, and among others a threat "to call the policeman" is not not uncommon, though we never heard of its being carried beyond a threat. Practical jokes, moreover, are sometimes carried too far, and this proceeding of the Rev. Mr. Gray appears to partake of the nature of both these improprieties. No information was