

THE WHOLE PROCEEDINGS ON THE KINGS COMMISSION OF PEACE
OYER AND TERMINER
AND
GAOL DELIVERY FOR THE CITY OF LONDON
AND ALSO
THE GAOL DELIVERY
FOR THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
HELD AT
JUSTICE HALL IN THE OLD BAILEY
ON WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPT 1818 AND FOLLOWING DAYS
BEING THE SEVENTH SESSION IN THE MAYORALTY OF
THE RIGHT HON CHRISTOPHER SMITH
LORD MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LONDON

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31 ST ANDREWS HILL, DOCTORS' COMMONS.

19th Day Wednesday 30th September
4th Middlesex Jury before Mr Recorder

Case 1391

Richard Brigenshaw was indicted for stealing on the 11th September, one book, value 3s. the goods of Francis Claridge.

The prosecutor not appearing, the prisoner was acquitted.

<u>Jury</u>	Joseph Cross	Thomas Wimsett
	Stephen Green	Jacob Keen
	John Bradford	Thomas Newman
	William Wymer	Mark Canner
	Robert Adams	Richard Moore
	John Moore	William Brown

Richard was lucky on this occasion as the prosecutor did not turn up. He was acquitted and released from Newgate after 18 days in that dreaded place.

However, it would seem that Richard did not learn any lesson from this lucky escape for it was only nine months later that he found himself, as an established member of the criminal fraternity, in very serious trouble and boasting in the Black Lion Public House in Vinegar Yard, with a stolen saddle on his shoulder - 'My lads, see what a good days work I have had. I cut it from a gentleman's coach!' and then trying to sell stolen books in the same place.

This is pure Dickens. To picture the scene one has only to read 'Oliver Twist' set in this precise neighbourhood.

It was earlier on this same day, the 1st July 1819, aided by an accomplice, James Cole (4 years older), that they were engaged in a theft that was to lead to a terrible end for them. They brazenly walked into a bookshop in Great Wild Street and stole a medical book from the window and it was with bravado or sheer carelessness that they offered this book amongst those mentioned above.