

the Prisoner withdrew his plea of "not guilty" and pleaded 'guilty' to the stealing of Mr. Fox Pitts gun, on the understanding that no evidence should be given on another charge, brought by the Police against him, of stealing a gun in 1874. I left the Court in a hurry immediately after the last sentence was given, in order to catch the only train which would enable me to reach home last night and arrived too late for Post, or I should have written yesterday.

I am, Sir,

your obed^t. Serv^t.

Robert S. Frazer

Gen. Pitts Rivers
Rushmore.

Salisbury.

(264)
Gillingham, Dorset.
5 January 1883.

Sir/ You will have heard from Mr. Riordan that Bennett was sentenced, yesterday, to six months imprisonment, with hard labor, for stealing the chair &c - I hope that this result will be satisfactory to you, and that it will show any well disposed persons in your neighbourhood, that they cannot carry on their depredations with impunity. We took the indictment relating to Mr. Fox Pitts shirts & first thinking that it was the stronger case, but it broke down, partly owing to its coming out on cross examination that Mr. Pitt Rivers had given cast off clothes to the Brompton Hospital, & to the inference which the Counsel for the Prisoner pressed the jury to draw, that if given away for one charitable purpose, they might also be given to

poor neighbours. Mr. Fox Pitt too in answer to a question which I don't think he quite understood at the time, conveyed the impression that the shirts were such as he should not have worn at the time they were probably stolen, whereas, I take it, that he really meant that he should not be likely to wear shirts in the condition in which they were before the Court. Of course, no such line of argument could be suggested as to the silk handkerchief, which was manifestly not likely to have been given away. This appeared to impress the Jury, but, after a long discussion, they said that they intended to give the Prisoner the benefit of the doubt, & on being pressed for a distinct verdict, they gave one of 'not guilty'. The Prisoner was then tried on the indictment comprising the chair, and on this he was found guilty and sentenced as before mentioned - I may add that Mr. Riordan gave his evidence

capitally in the first case, and that Altwood & Perry (the Footman) were very useful in the second - the former identifying the chair very conclusively and speaking to its usual place of deposit, and the latter fixing the time when it was missed, which nearly coincided with the last employment of the Prisoner - After the conviction, ~~the~~ and before the sentence, the Court was informed of the large quantity of articles found at the Prisoner's House, a fact which (except as to the actual articles comprised in the indictment) the forms of Procedure did not allow of being brought forward until then. In Mr. Fox Pitt's own case the sentence was also one of ~~some~~ six months imprisonment with hard labor - This case, however, presented no substantial difficulty, and, moreover, was well got up by the Police. By arrangement between the Counsel engaged on both sides, in this case