

# DIABOLICAL OUTRAGES AT WHITEWELL

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**Edward Haney** said: "I reside at Hope Street, Preston and am a hodman and chair bottomer. I was at New Hey on the Saturday, the 18th inst. I did not see the prisoner there when I left. I saw him in the yard. I saw the navvies drinking beer, and I ran away because I thought if they were drunk, they would kill me. I heard George Pendlebury give orders to the men to go to the house. Mr. Eastham said the reason why Pendlebury went up was to stop the row, as he was the foreman. - Witness, continuing, said he heard Pendlebury say, "Come and have us have some drink". - Mr. Anderson said the witness told him that he had heard Pendlebury say he would go and pull the house down. - Witness said he saw the men knocking everything about. The men began to drink at eleven o'clock at night. He did not know that those who were drinking went and poured drink over those who were in bed".

**Edward Thompson** said: "I come from Harrison Street, Nova Scotia, Blackburn. I am a labourer. I was at New Hey on Saturday, the 18th inst. I stayed there until night. I lodged there, and did not go to work on Saturday morning. I saw the prisoner Pendlebury among the men. I saw Singleton drinking beer. I was in the house when Pendlebury came up with about 50 men to the house. All the men on the work came up, and they started to drink beer. They pulled the barrels out of the out-house and commenced drinking. When they had drunk sufficient Pendlebury said "I am your ganger, I will be your captain, and I shall be responsible for anything that happens". He went upstairs and "up ended" all the beds on their sides. There was a man in bed named Dimpsey: they kicked him downstairs, and he lay there with nothing on him but his shirt. They threw the bedding through the windows, and going downstairs he ordered the men to take a boiler to his house. I went away, and lodged next door to the timekeeper. I got my wages on the Sunday morning, and went away. I saw none of the prisoners do anything except Pendlebury. Pendlebury knocked me down in the room. - Cross - examined by Mr. Eastham: I saw

Pendlebury kick the furniture about. It was between nine and ten o'clock on Saturday morning. I had 5s to draw on the Sunday. The game keeper broke the window frame with the butt end of the gun. I left the place about two o'clock, and Pendlebury did not go away until after I left. I did not see anyone ransack the box".

**James Baker** said: "I resided with my son-in-law, George Holden, when this "row" happened. I was standing in the doorway when George Pendlebury, and the men came up, and soon after I heard all the plates and dishes and windows being smashed. All went to rack. A clock was knocked off the mantelpiece. The men pushed me into the parlour, and I could not see who smashed the things. I saw the prisoner there. There were about 30 men came up. Examined by Mr. Eastham: I never tasted drink that day. A man had me down on the floor, breaking my head with a pint pot. I would have been killed had I not been rescued. I never said it was the lodgers who did all the damage. All the men were alike. I slept in the parlour. There were two beds, and the other bed was occupied by Holden, his wife, and the servant girl. There were no women in the habit of coming from Preston". (laughter)

**Benjamin Sykes, C.E.** said: "I am the surveyor to the Corporation of Preston. The Corporation are constructing water works at New Hey. George Pendlebury is the foreman at the works and at the time in question he had the entire management. Holden had the lodging of the men and the rent was paid by the Corporation. They had to give Holden notice to quit on the 10th March. He became a regular outlaw, set the laws at defiance, sold drink, and completely demoralized the men. It became dangerous for the regular men to go down into the conduits and the men who worked at the top became so depraved and frantic through drink, that the lives of those who went down were in danger. Witness gave Pendlebury a most excellent character".

