

Perthshire Advertiser 26 Sept 1850

Reporting cases heard on Tuesday 24th September

13. PETER COONIE, one of the rioters in Dunfermline on the night of the 22nd June last, was next placed at the bar on a charge of having then wickedly and feloniously assaulted, with a heavy bludgeon, David Anderson, and, knocking him to the ground, did beat and severely maltreat him, to the effusion of his blood and great danger of his life. He pled not guilty. To show the brutality of an Irish mob, we subjoin the evidence of the first witness:

David Anderson. Resided in Dunfermline in June last. On the evening of the 22nd he heard a number of Irish labourers making a noise in the street, fighting and quarrelling. He had occasion to pass through them when the prisoner struck him on the neck with a stick. The blow was a severe one and knocked him down when a number more set upon him and kicked him with their feet on face and throat and again struck him on the throat with sticks. He soon became insensible. When he came to himself, he found himself in bed in his own lodgings. It was nine days before he properly came to himself, and six weeks before he was able to be taken out of bed. It was only a month since he was able to walk about, and up to the present time he had not got the power of his right side and arm. Before the attack he was well and able for work, but now is unable for anything. Other witnesses corroborated these statements; when after a trial of between three and four hours duration, Coonie was found guilty of the assault as libelled—Sentence delayed.

14. CHARLES WIDDIN, another of the Irish navies that got up the riot in Dunfermline, was next placed at the bar on a similar charge: he having attacked and assaulted Thomas Chalmers, and knocked him down several times and so maltreated him when down to render him insensible for some time after being carried home. The injuries he received, however were not as severe as to put his life in danger. The prisoner pled not guilty. He was found guilty as libelled by a majority—Sentence delayed.

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Reporting cases heard on Wednesday 25th September

19. ALEXANDER BLACK. senior, ALEXANDER BLACK. junior, THOMAS SPOWART, JAMES JOHNSTON, and DAVID KINGHORN, charged with mobbing and rioting, assaulting and entering the houses of individuals, and ejecting them therefrom, in Dunfermline, in June last, severally pled guilty to mobbing and rioting as libelled, which plea was accepted by the public prosecutor. Sentence delayed.

20. HENRY DONALDSON. JOHN DONALDSON. JOHN BELL. and JOHN SEATON, similarly charged, made the same admission; as well as,

21. ADAM BAXTER. DUNCAN McNAUGHTON, and GEORGE PHILLIP; when their pleas were likewise accepted, and the libels restricted accordingly. Mr Logan, agent for the panels, ably stated the nature of the general case. The concerted rising of the Irish navies, and their consequent atrocities, in the first place, and then the rising of the inhabitants, and the forcible expulsion of the Irish, showed that the whole had been done under great provocation. Sentence delayed.

