

SUPERSTITIONS

May 29 1888

Brierley Hill

ALLEGED ROBBERY BY A BOATMAN Yesterday, at the Police Court, before Mr King Harrison and Mr Hall, **Thomas Pettifer** (29), boatman, was charged with stealing a coat, blanket and bed-quilt, the property of **Thomas Kent**, another boatman, of Roch's Hill. In the previous month the prosecutor engaged the defendant as an assistant boatman, and a few days afterwards missed the goods from the cabin of the boat, and the prisoner was nowhere to be found until the 20th inst. Prisoner ought to have been on the boat all the time. **In cross-examination, Pettifer sought to learn from the prosecutor that no agreement as to wages had been come to because the engagement was on a Friday, and it would have been bad luck to do so.** A witness was called, and swore that the defendant came to Messrs Wilkinson's works about the time of the robbery wearing a coat similar to the one lost by the prosecutor. Pettifer was ultimately apprehended by the Liverpool police. The defendant cross-examined to show that he was at work on an independent job on the evening the clothes were missed, and that the boat was so closely moored to the towing-path that anyone could have stepped into the cabin and taken the clothes. He was discharged.