

At the Old Bailey on 10 April 1865, Thomas Caseley (23), Thomas Brewerton (27), and others were charged with breaking into the safe of watchmaker John Walker and stealing items valued at £6,000 and £70 cash.

Thomas Caseley made a lengthy address in his defence. He said that since he had last come out of prison, he had made an honest living. He also had no connection with any of the burglaries for which he was charged.

Brewerton and Caseley had previous convictions of a felony, Caseley in the name of George Hill, on 21 May 1860 and Brewerton on 26 October 1863. Both were convicted, sentenced to 14 years transportation and arrived on the *Corona* in 1866.

While in Millbank Prison, Thomas Caseley was called upon to give evidence when John Walker sued the safe maker. The safe was guaranteed to be 'sufficiently strong to resist any amount of violence'. Thomas gave a detailed account of how the robbery occurred and boasted he could make a better safe.¹ Then in 1867 ²:

VERY THOUGHTFUL.—It is stated that Mr. Walker, the watchmaker, of Cornhill, whose premises were recently ransacked by the Casely gang, has received a letter from the convict Casely, dated from his *locus penitentiae* in Fremantle, Western Australia, in which that worthy announces that he has completed the draught for a model of a safe which he considers to be thoroughly thief-proof, and which, with touching candour, he begs to place at the disposal of Mr. Walker, as some compensation for the injury he had formerly suffered at his (Casely's) hands.

¹ *Thame Gazette*, 20 February 1866, p6

² *Brecon County Times*, 07 September 1867, p7