

Name: James Platt

Occupation: Police Officer

Home: Manchester

Date: 18th March 1820

Source: Trial of Henry Hunt, 45-46

Summary: Saw no offence on the field. Discusses flimsies (forged bank notes). 'Nobody assaulted or insulted me on the field, nor did any one else offend where I stood, though I am said to be a dealer in flimsies.'

Done by: RH

James Platt examined by *Sergeant Hullock* – I am a police officer, and was in St. Peter's area, on 16th of August. About twelve, I saw *Dr. Healey* bring up a number of people to the hustings. Witness then described the formation of the people around the hustings, and identified *Healey* and *Bamford* as being there.

On his cross-examination, he said the shout which hailed *Mr. Hunt's* arrival appeared to be one of defiance rather than joy.

Mr. Hunt. – What is the price of a flimsy (a flash phrase for a forged note) now? –A. If you want them in the flash – why ten *bobs* (shillings). The prices vary a little according to the execution. The way I came to know forgeries was, that my father had some forged £5 notes paid him for fustian; he offered one at a grocer's shop in Middleton, which subsequently proved to be bad, and they were returned; the five pound notes were returned by my father, and in return he got six or seven forged notes for £1 or £2 This so aggravated me that I determined to detect the passers . I went to the people (continued the witness) and by *inveiglement* I got into the secret, and obtained from them a £5 and £2 note, upon which I gave information to the Bank of England. I would do so again; 8s. was the price of a flimsy then; for a £5 I gave £2 16s. ;The man who gave them to me was committed, but not tried; it was this circumstance that introduced me to *Mr. Nadin*. By *inveiglement* I detected others since, and one of them was by my evidence hanged.

Q. What price did you receive for that? —I decline answering that question. I never gave false evidence. I have prevented many, and never appeared against one that was not nailed; I gave no evidence for forgeries at the last Lancaster Assizes. Nobody assaulted or insulted me on the field, nor did anyone else offend where I stood, though I am said to be a dealer in flimsies.

Dr. Healey exclaimed-with great warmth, that the witness said one thing here today, and another at the New *Bayley*. This the witness denied. He would not say whether he swore or not at the New *Bayley* that he saw *Saxton* on the hustings, between the hours of twelve and half past one o'clock.