



9. *Catherine Vale*

Catherine Vale

Age: 19 Native place: Melbourne

Trade: Servant

Date of conviction: August 1888

Crime: Robbery in company

Sentence: Six months hard labour.

Catherine was at home when her husband arrived with a drinking partner Samuel Floyd, whom he had met at the Adelphi hotel in South Melbourne after work that day. The men continued drinking over a few games of cards, and Catherine fetched them beer with the money Floyd had given to "shout" them.

When Floyd passes out drunk, Catherine and her husband searched his clothes for money. When Floyd awoke, he was beaten by George Vale, and then escorted away, into a nearby street. The next day, when the police came to arrest them, Catherine and George Vale denied knowing the man, despite evidence of him having

been in their house (a small pool of vomit) still there on the floor of the room.

*'...that they the said George Vale and Catherine Vale...did put in bodily fear and danger of his life and did then feloniously and violently and against the will of the said Samuel Floyd steal take and carry away from the person of the said Samuel Floyd the sum of two pounds or thereabouts...'*

[Deposition of witnesses, PROV, VPRS 30/P0, Unit 725, case number 16]

*'...this beer is not fit to drink. I could see white stuff in a glass. Vale said drink it up. I then felt giddy. Vale helped me on the bed, on the sofa. I went to sleep. I awoke and found Mrs Vale's hand in my pocket and the male prisoner with his hand on my throat.'*

[Testimony of Samuel Floyd, PROV, VPRS 30/P0, Unit 725, case number 16]