



Stolen Silver Watch Chain by a Policeman

TROWBRIDGE – (Before T. Clark and W. P. Clark esqs.)

At a special sessions held at the police-station on Wednesday, *William Batt*, who had served nine years in the army and more recently for about three months in the police force at Codford, was charged with stealing a silver watch chain, valued at 7s., the property of a young man named Thomas Fishlock, at Hilperton's Marsh, on the 1st inst. Prisoner, who was related to the prosecutor, was allowed to sleep at the house of the latter for a night, for which he rewarded him by stealing the chain in question and pledging it at the pawnshop in Trowbridge. The chain was not missed till the following Sunday, when the police were informed of it and in due course the prisoner was apprehended at Codford by Sergt. Clarke of Heytesbury. He had no questions to ask the witnesses and admitted to taking the chain, but not with a felonious intent. The Bench, however, did not take the same view of it and told him he was liable to three months imprisonment, but they would only sentence him to one month with hard labour.

(*Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette*, Thursday 10th May, 1883)