



Alleged Theft From John Gibb's Beer-House

Mary Harper was charged with stealing a sovereign and six shillings, the property of John Gibbs, of Shrewton. Charlotte Gibbs, the wife of the complainant, stated that her husband keeps a beer-house at Shrewton, and that on the 24th June, the prisoner, who, with two children, were on their way to the union, were brought to lodge at her house by the relieving officer, in consequence of one of the children falling ill. In consequence of the continued illness of the child the prisoner remained at the house. On Wednesday morning witness placed a purse containing six sovereigns and twenty-five shillings in silver in a drawer. In the evening she counted the money in the purse, and missed a sovereign and six shillings from the purse. During the day the prisoner had said that she had no money, and asked witness to lend her a halfpenny. She also missed some rags, which were found in the prisoner's possession.

William Johnson, one of the county police, stated that in consequence of information which he had received, he went in search of the prisoner on Thursday, the 1st of July, and he found her in a draper's shop at Shrewton making purchases. He charged her with stealing money from Mrs Gibb's bedroom, and took her into custody. She said that she had never been in the bedroom in her life. He took from her a purse with 18s 6d. in silver, which she said had been given to her by different persons, and she named sums amounting to 10s 6d. Witness had ascertained that she had purchased goods the night before to the amount of six shillings.

Mr Jacob said that the case was a very suspicious one, but that owing to the evidence being defective, the Bench were compelled to discharge the prisoner. The 18s 6d found in her possession was ordered to be given up to her.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 10 July 1858