



**Victorian Purse c1850s**

## **Losing a Purse**

Elizabeth Keene, the wife of a beer-house keeper at Stratton St. Margaret was charged with stealing 15s., the moneys of Ruth Fisher. It appeared that complainant, who is a young woman of very respectable appearance, on Saturday last arrived at Swindon Station from London, to visit some of her friends at Stratton, and on passing along Southbrook Lane, where she saw several boys at play, she lost her purse containing 15s 2½d. From information she went to the defendant's house in the evening, when the purse with 1½d. in it was given to her by the accused, who said it was all the child had brought in. A boy named Loveday, and another, stated before the Bench they saw the defendant's boy, who found the purse, open it, and describe the contents to be half-crowns, and then saw him take it to his mother's house. The accused still persisted the purse contained three halfpence. The Justices could only dismiss the case; but recommended the complainant to proceed against the accused at the County Court.

**Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard, 22 May 1852**