



Crime and Punishment

*Berwick Bassett 1850-
1899*

Vagrant in Court for Begging

County Police. Saturday

Thomas Davies, late of Devizes, travelling grinder, was brought up in custody charged with stealing a pair of spectacles, value 2d, at Berwick Bassett, on the 30th September ult. From the evidence of the prosecutor and his wife, Elizabeth Pearce, it appears that the prisoner, who sharpens saws principally for a livelihood, was plying his trade in the village on the 30th September and borrowed the spectacles to assist him in his work for a few minutes. He failed to return them and left the village. The next day they gave information to the police constable at Broad Hinton. - PC Bryant stated that he traced the prisoner to Swindon and apprehended him in a lodging house there at 10pm at night, and found the spectacles in his possession. He charged his with the theft and brought him to Marlborough. Prisoner now pleaded that he intended to return the spectacles, and the magistrates thinking there might be a doubt as to the felonious intent, discharged him.

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