

Kettering Petty Sessions Wednesday, April 11 1883

Before the Hon and Rev. C. J Vernon (chairman) Sir F. L. Robinson J J Roughton, Esq and J. T. Stockburn, Esq.

Stealing a Watch. —George Robert Hawkes, groom, of Grafton Underwood, was charged with stealing silver watch, value £2, the property of Amos Nichols, on the 31st March. —During the hearing of this case the chairman retired from the Bench his place being taken for the time being Sir F. Robinson.—The prosecutor stated that the prisoner, who is his stepson, slept at his house the night of the 30th March, and about six o'clock on the following morning witness went to his work, leaving the watch hanging at the bedstead. On going to wind up his watch at night, he found that had been taken away. The prisoner had then left the house, and, he did "not return, prosecutor gave information of his loss to the police, by whom the watch was afterwards shown to him.—James Graystone assistant Mr Taylor, pawnbroker, of Northampton, stated that the watch produced was pawned at his employer's establishment, on the 31st March, by prisoner for 10s.—The prisoner, who pleaded guilty, was committed for two months' hard labour.—Application was made by the last-named witness that the sum of 5s 8d which was found the prisoner's possession when he was taken into custody, should be handed over for the benefit of his employer, who would otherwise lose the whole amount lent on the watch.—The Clerk of the Court (Mr George W. Lamb) said he was not aware of any Act which allowed Magistrates to make such order, but the applicant was informed that in case he could cite any legal authority relating to the matter, it should be "taken into consideration.