

Ann Healey ID 5123 per *Emma Eugenia* 1851

A mitigation is prayed on the grounds that the prisoner's punishment is disproportionate, severe, her accomplice having been sentenced to 2 years imprisonment only.

Presented by the Earl of Carlisle

Wakefield

4th October 1850

My Lord

I crave your Lordships pardon for addressing your Lordship but being aware of your Lordships ever ready kindness to assist the distressed.

I have to state to your Lordship that my sister Ann Healey was sentenced to 10 years transportation for endorsing a cheque which had been stolen from a[lady's] cheque book by her servant and handed over to my young sister to have the Lady's name endorsed thereon the cheque was on Leatham Senior and Co of this town.

I beg to inform your Lordship, I got up a Petition to Sir George Grey signed by Leatham Senior and Co and several Magistrates. I received an answer to the effect that Sir

George Grey was sorry he could not alter the decision of the Judges.

I now humbly beg of your Lordship to use your great influence with Sir George Grey to withhold my sister from being sent abroad by so doing you will ever have the prayers and deep gratitude of her and her friends.

I am your Lordships most humble servant

Charles Healey

Grocer Westgate

PS

She is at present in Millbank Prison expecting to be removed onboard during this month.

To the Honourable Earl of Carlisle

Castle Howard

York)

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey Her Majesty's
Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Petition of Ann Healey a prisoner in the Millbank Prison

Humble Sheweth

That a Petition has been presented in behalf of your
Petitioner by George Sanders Esq Member for Wakefield.

Your Petitioner humbly solicits your kind consideration of the circumstances of her case, and as this is her first offence you would be pleased to recommend a mitigation of her sentence and she will ever pray

Ann Healey

Witness A MacLesh

40 Upper Brook Street

21st August 1850

I have to acknowledge the receipt of a letter of the 14th instant from Mr Waddington transmitting for my perusal as application on behalf of Ann Healey who was convicted before me at the York Lent Assizes 1850 of forgery and was sentenced to 10 years transportation and requesting me to send you my observations and opinions on the case.

The facts were these: Harriett Harrison an old Lady living near Wakefield kept money at the Bank there – according to the course of dealing, the Bank gave her a receipt for her money they held for her, and when she wanted money, she used to send this receipt by a servant to them with a note stating the amount she wished to draw out. The cashier at the Bank then gave to the servant the amount required and either made a memorandum on the back of the receipt of this sum sent, or else retained the receipt and sent by the

bearer a new receipt for the balance remaining in their hands – Mrs Harrison’s servant Eliza Pawson was a young girl who could not write, but having discovered where Mrs Harrison kept her paper she took Banker’s receipt for £80 and went with it to the Prisoner who could read and write and was another person – Ann Healey then wrote a note to the Bank, as if from Mrs Harrison, requesting them to send by the bearer £10 and she at the same time forged Mrs Harrison’s signature at the back of the receipt. I ought to have stated that according to the ordinary course of business the Bank required such endorsement before that will pay money on the receipt.

The servant girl Eliza Pawson then took her forged note and the receipt with the forged endorsement to the Bank and the cashier supposing the documentation to be genuine gave her the £10 and retained the £80 receipt as secured from Mrs Harrison, giving Eliza Pawson a new receipt for £70.

Eliza Pawson afterwards took the £70 receipt to the prisoner Ann Healey and got her as before to forge Mrs Harrison’s endorsement on that receipt and to write a note in Mrs Harrison’s name desiring the Bank to send a further £10 – Eliza Pawson then took the receipt and note to the Bank and obtained £10 as in the former case – the cashier endorsing on the receipt the payment of the £10 – Ann Healey received from Eliza Pawson £5 as a consideration for this second

forgery – it was such proved what she received for the first, but probably the same sum.

I thought the case a very serious one and am of opinion that Ann Healey's punishment was not at all too severe – Why I did not sentence Eliza Pawson to transportation I do not exactly recollect – but I rather think I was induced to be lenient towards her (perhaps too lenient) in consideration of her youth and ignorance.

My Clerk is at present out of touch so that I cannot at once send you a copy of the report of the two trials (ie: one for the £80 the other for the £70) but in truth the reports will give you no further information – the facts were precisely as I have stated and indeed were not disputed.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

R Rolfe

Mr Baron Rolfe thinks the case a serious one and the punishment not at all too severe.

I will inform Mr Saunders of the Judges opinion

1st August 1850

I have just received the enclosed memorial in favour of the prisoner Ann Healey most respectfully signed and I beg your favourable consideration of its contents it really appears a case calling for some revision and as it may be of [ance] I [] not a part in transmitting to you. I shall be in my [] in that [] [] and glad to offer any further information in my power.

I am your obedient servant

George Saunders

Wakefield

30 July 1850

Dear Sir

I am desvied to send to you the enclosed memorial to Sir George Grey in favour of Ann Healey a young woman for many years resident in Wakefield.

As the Memorial states she was convicted at the Assizes if having forged an endorsement and sentenced to 10 years transportation. The length of the term was generally felt to be too great considering the offence and therefore the prisoner's friends have caused the Memorial for a mitigation of punishment to be prepared.

You will see that it is very respectfully signed Mr Holdsworth was a Committing Magistrate – Messrs Leattian and Flew

were the Prosecutors and Mr Samson was Attorney for the Prosecution, in addition to their signatures are many other of weight.

The object in forwarding the memorial to you is respectfully to request that you will (if you are nothing to the contrary) have the kindness to present it to Sir George Grey.

I have the honour to remain

Dear Sir

Yours faithfully

N J Banks

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey Her Majesty's Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The undersigned inhabitants of Wakefield in Yorkshire beg respectfully to lay before you the case of Ann Healey who is now imprisoned in York Castle under the sentence of transportation for 10 years and to request your consideration thereof with a view to some mitigation of the prisoner's punishment.

She was convicted at the last York Assizes of having in conjunction with one Elizabeth Pawson forged an endorsement of a Miss Harris's name upon a banker's accountable receipt with intent to defraud Miss Harrison or the bankers of about £10.

Elizabeth Pawson (who also was at the same assizes convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment) had been Miss Harrison's domestic servant for some months before the forgery and it was she who in the first instance stole the receipt and who afterwards obtained the money at the Bank when Ann Healey at her request had forged the endorsement.

The undersigned persons are aware that both prisoners were found guilty of the offence of forgery and it is not with any desire to question the justice of the verdict or to lessen the great deference to which the opinion of the Learned Judge who sat upon the trial is entitled that this memorial is presented by the memorialists knowing the offenders and their crime now beg leave, with great submission to say that they think the punishment of Ann Healey as compared with that of Elizabeth Pawson is disproportionally large and more than justice demanded, and it is on this ground that the undersigned have ventured to address you upon the subject.

The memorialists therefore trust you will deem it proper to make an inquiry into the circumstances of the case and the conduct in prison of the offender Ann Healey so that such steps may be taken as in your opinion will satisfy justice.

Edward Flew JP

William Cross – Clerk

James Harrison – Solicitor

GW Harrison – Major

James King – Clerk in holy orders

And another 60 signatures.

Ann Healey aged 29

York Lent Assizes 7th March 1850

Forging a warrant for payment of money

10 years transportation

Received in Millbank Prison from York Castle on 21st August
1850

Goal Report – Character – Good at Millbank

Series – HO 18

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