

Irish Transportation Records, Jonathan Francis CRF 1842 F28

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin date obscured

W.Connor written up the side.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 21st Inst. together with the accompanying memorial of Jonathan Francis, I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of the Lord Lieutenant, That it appeared by the evidence of the prosecutor Jeremiah Goulding, that on the evening of the 23rd July last, he was induced by a woman named Catherine Patterson to accompany her to a house in Belfast kept by the Prisoner and his wife (or a woman passing as his wife). Prisoner was in the house when he entered with Patterson. The Prosecutor retired to another room with Patterson, and having fallen asleep was woken in some time, by the efforts of his companion to remove a handkerchief which he had placed round his waist and in which he had placed some money – Patterson laid hold of his watch, and after a considerable struggle, succeeded in getting away with it. Ischid... Young found that the watch which Goulding identified as his, was pawned at his house by the Prisoner, who gave his names as Frederick [Cadle?].

The Prisoner in his defence [induced??] several women of the Town, inmates of the house in question, and some of whom had on former occasions been convicted before me. Their evidence was to the effect that the Prosecutor had given the watch to Catherine Patterson for the purpose of being pawned. The Prosecutor was a native of Sligo, and appeared an exceedingly unsuspecting, incautious person, I was given to understand by some of the magistrates, that on the day previous to the transaction in question, Goulding had been plundered of a considerable sum of money in the same house.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most humble Svt
John Gibson

E. Lucas

Written up the side

W. Connor

Let me see the reply when received 21 Nov/42

To His Excellency Earl De Grey Lord Lieutenant, General and Governor General of Ireland
The humble Petition of Jonathan Francis at present confined in the Gaol of the County of Antrim

Most respectfully

Sheweth

That your Petitioner was tried at last Belfast Quarter Sessions, held the 24th October 1842 – Convicted of having a stolen watch in his possession, and sentenced to be transported for the term of seven years.

That your Petitioner being Belgian by birth, and only a short time residing in Belfast, he was altogether misled by the person who stole said watch, she having positively stated to petitioner that it belonged to her brother, and requested him to put same in pawn, which petitioner unfortunately did, not knowing that he was committing a breach of the law.

That Petitioner is a person of unexceptionable character, never having been charged with an offence of any kind before, as can be testified by the Captain of the ship on board of which Petitioner sailed for some years – and also by the Governor of the gaol where he (Petitioner) now is confined.

That Petitioner having a wife who will be left altogether unprotected and unprovided for, should he be sent out of the country, without a friend to assist her in any way what's more on whose account Petitioner would most earnestly solicit, that your Excellency will graciously condescend to take his deplorable case into consideration, and grant that his sentence may be commuted to any term of imprisonment in this country your Excellency may deem met – so that he may, ultimately be restored to the assistance of his disconsolate partner – where by honest industry h hopes to gain an respectable livelihood.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

Jonathan Francis

Carrickfergus

14th November 1842

From what I have heard of the Memorialist I am induced to recommend his case to the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant

F 28 1842

Jonathan Francis

Stealing a watch 7 yrs Tn

Let the law take its course

Nov 28th initials

AB ans^d 26th Nov/42

Gaoler informed d^o 25th

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin 42 Dec 12

W.Connor written up the side.

Whitehall
10 Dec^r 1842

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir James Graham to transmit to you, the enclosed Petition of Jonathan Francis, a convict under Sentence of Transportation; and I am requesting you to submit the same to the consideration of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

I am

Sir

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

JM Phillips

E .Lucas Esq^{re}

etc etc etc

To The Rt. Hon^{bl} Robert Peel London

The memorial of Jonathan Francis late of Belfast now a convict on his way for Van Diemen's land
Most Humbly Sheweth

That Mem^l is by birth a Belgian and has earned his bread as a Seaman merchant since he left his Nativity – That some time ago he was persuaded to go to pledge a Watch for which he as prosecuted at the Past Quarter Sessions held at Belfast and sentenced to seven years – The watch having been a stolen one unknown to Mem^l.- That Mem^l has made considerable trial and enquiry – finds it is not in the Lord Lieutenant's power to mitigate the sentence being advised by several gentlemen of respectability that an Application to your Honor was the only way by which the Mem^l might expect any mercy. That Mem^l never offended the Law knowingly and depending on him who over rules all events.

Memorialist

Therefore prays that your Honor may have the Goodness to consider the case and condition of Mem^l Torn from an affectionate wife without hopes of ever beholding her his friends or Nativity – to be a slave in a foreign land - Mem^l Humbly and earnestly prays that you will in Mercy procure for him an Extension of the Royal clemency in Mitigation of sentence or at least allow Mem^l to put in his time in the penitentiary of Dublin for which Mem^l as in duty bound will ever pray for your Honors Welfare in time and eternity.

On board the Dublin Steam Boat Belfast Harbour Nov^r 30th 1842

Jonathan Francis

NB Mem^l is in his 24th year.