

Elizabeth Perkins ID2237 per Asia 1847

Elizabeth Perkins aged 26

Devon Quarter Sessions 5th January 1847

Stealing a silk shawl

7 years transportation

Received into Millbank Prison on 27th January 1847 from Devon Gaol

Gaol Report – Character indifferent and in gaol before.

Series – HO18

Piece Number 197

The prisoner denies her guilt

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

The Petition of Elizabeth Perkins a prisoner in Millbank Prison

Humbly Sheweth

That your petitioner is not guilty. The daughter of a neighbour came to her one evening and stated that she had taken sixpence from some money which her mother had laid by to pay her rent, and she feared she would miss it and be very angry with her if she did not shortly replace it. She bought a shawl with her valued at one shilling which she wished to have pledged for sixpence and requested your petitioner to pledge it for her and she declined having the duplicate fearing it might fall into her mother's hands. Your Petitioner pledged the shawl for sixpence in her own name and left the duplicate with the pawnbroker.

About seven weeks after the mother missed the shawl and the daughter said it was very likely that your Petitioner had stolen it she having occasionally washed for them while they did her needlework she having been brought up to work on a farm, and never taught to use the needle.

The shawl was found pledged in your Petitioner name she was apprehended and received the above sentence. She is a married woman and had three children and the eldest is only five years old.

Your petition humbly solicits your kind consideration of the circumstances of her case and that you would be pleased to recommend a mitigation of her sentence and she will ever pray.

The mark of Elizabeth Perkins

Witness – A Maclesh.
