

To the Right Honourable His Majesty's Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Petition of HARRIET EDWARDS of Stockport in the county of Chester

Most Humbly Sheweth

That ELIZABETH ROPER aged fifteen years now lies under sentence of seven years transportation (passed at the last Assizes at Chester) under the following circumstances:

That in the forenoon of some day in July last, the girl was going to seek employment in some of the cotton mills in Stockport, and was called into the house of a Mrs Wright, situated near to the mills where she was going, by a young woman who requested the girl to remain there for a few minutes but on going out the young woman locked the door,. The child finding no person in the house immediately appreciated that a snare was laid for her, some neighbours heard her in the house, and upon entering it, sent the girl before the Magistrates who committed her for trial and as nothing was found taken from the house the Jury returned a verdict of NOT GUILTY. When the girl was taken into custody, a pawn ticket was found of a set of beads and about 3 years of printed calico, a Mrs Linsdsey of Stockport returned to swear that the calico print had been stolen from her shop, but could not say by whom upon this charge she was sentenced to seven years transportation.

That as your poor Petitioner was not in circumstances to fee an Attorney and Counsel she feels morially certain that her unfortunate daughter is lost through poverty and that the girl being out of employment at the time, caused some to magnify their suspicion into more than suspicion.

That the girl is so young your Petitioner feels agonies of heart which few can conceive and non describe and implories that the Royal Clemency may be so far excised to her unfortunate daughter, that she may not be sent from the land of her birth, but remain in some Penitentiary till her conduct and habits show her to be a girl of very different inclinations from those which circumstances may now seem to indicate.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray
Harriet Edwards

Lower Barlow Row
Hillgate
Stockport
14th October 1836

We the undersigned residing at Stockport sympathize with the Petitioner and her unfortunate daughter as they have been known as anything but industrious peaceable, and very deserving persons. We approve of the above Petition as an honest unreserved statement of facts, and beg leave to join in its prayer, that a sentence of expatriation may not be enforced against so young a girl.

Samuel Chapman - Innkeeper
E Hawells - Clerk
William Turner - Wine Merchant
Joseph Whitmore - Painter
H Cox - Wine Merchant
And 23 other signatures

This is to certify that ELIZABETH ROPER has lived in our service several years and she behaved herself in honesty industry and prudence as we could expect a girl so young for to do

Thomas Robinson
Shoe Maker
Lancashire Hill

ELIZABETH ROPER
CHESTER - 1836
STEALING IN A DWELLING HOUSE
7 YEARS TRANSPORTATION
SOURCE - HOME OFFICE CRIMINAL PETITIONS - SERIES 1
SERIES - HO 17
PIECE NUMBER - 130
ITEM NUMBER - ZW 44

ELIZABETH ROPER - AGED 16
CHESTER SUMMER ASSISES AUGUST 1836
STEALING IN A DWELLING HOUSE
7 YEARS TRANSPORTATION
GAOL REPORT - CHARACTER - BAD