

Margaret Mawcourtney Brown per Hector 1835 - ID 6029

To the Right Honourable Secretary of State for the Home Department

Seamen's Offices
Wellclose Square
24th April 1835

Sir,

Trusting you will excuse this intrusion upon your valuable time. I beg respectfully to solicit your attention to the case of MARGARET SMITH alias MARGARET BROWN - COURTNEY a prisoner under sentence of transportation for seven years now confined in His Majesty's Gaol of Newgate.

I beg leave respectfully to inform you Sir, that the said prisoner is not none hardened in crime, she is one who has been seduced from the paths of virtue and was never (before this unfortunate time) even arraigned at the Bar of a Police Office. The crime for which she is now under sentence of the Law I feel confident she is innocent of and but for the poverty and ignorance of her friends as to the practice of the court, I feel certain they would have been present and would have been able to satisfy minds of the Jury upon the point - but the sentence is past - she must undergo punishment. She has the [plial] feeling of an affectionate daughter towards her aged mother who has seen better days - she is anxious not to be completely separated from her mother - the mother wishes (if possible) to be able to see her daughter and impart consolation to her afflicted daughter which may be of maternal utility - to soften the mothers passage to the tomb and to render the prisoner at some future period a useful member of society. I therefore humbly and earnestly solicit the extension of your kindness towards the said prisoner in ordering that (as she must undergo the punishment) it may be in the Penitentiary instead of being sent out of the country, and Sir, I [] you it is my firm opinion if ever an act of Christian benevolence was manifested toward a criminal of real usefulness such would be in the strictest sense of the word. I have written to Mr Cope respecting he and humbly hope that the applications may not be in vain - so that she may be permitted to undergo her punishment in the Penitentiary and not in any other part of His Majesty's dominions.

I am Sir,

Your obedient humble servant

John Harding

Secretary to the Magdalen Reform Society in connection with the Mariners Church
Wellclose Square.

MARGARET SMITH
OLD BAILEY 1835
STEALING FROM THE PERSON
TRANSPORTATION FOR 7 YEARS
SOURCE - HOME OFFICE CRIMINAL PETITIONS - SERIES 1
SERIES - HO 17
PIECE NUMBER - 42
ITEM NUMBER - FV 48

MARGARET SMITH - AGED 19
OLD BAILEY APRIL SESSIONS 1835
STEALING FROM THE PERSON
7 YEARS TRANSPORTATION
GAOL REPORT - NOT KNOWN HERE