

Mary Butcher ID5358 per *Garland Grove* 1841

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Mary Butcher aged 19

Hertford Quarter Sessions November 1840

Receiving stolen good

7 years transportation

Gaol Report – Not known.

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 46

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To go abroad

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The Marquis of Salisbury requests that the Prisoner may be transported and that she may receive such indulgences as her situation in the Colony may permit and as may tend to render her reformation permanent

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Hertford

22<sup>nd</sup> March 1841

My Lord

I have the honour of enclosing a testimonial in behalf of Mary Butcher now lying in Hertford Gaol under sentence of transportation which I have written at your Lordship's suggestion as conveyed in a letter to the Governor of the Prison. I sincerely hope that as following up your recommendation it may help to place this unfortunate girl in a respectable and tolerably comfortable situation in the Colony to

which she may be forwarded. My opinion is that she had been led astray by others more thoroughly vicious than herself and I [ ]

that a strong conviction that if placed with those who will strive to direct her in the right path her reformation will be perfected and the kind interest which you have taken in her welfare will not have been thrown away.

I have the honour to be your Lordship's obedient servant

[C Desman]

Chaplain of Hertford Prison.

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22<sup>nd</sup> March 1841

I have narrowly and anxiously watched the conduct of Mary Butcher since the period of her conviction and have every reason to believe her sincerely [ ]. I am further of an opinion that the formation of her future character will mainly depend on that of the persons into whose hands she may fall, and the system of management to which she may be subjected to in the penal settlement to which she may be sent. Were she to have the benefit of kind and judicious treatment coupled with a strict and closely vigilant moral superintendence, I feel fully persuaded that she would eventually become a useful and respectable member of society in as much as I have discovered in her disposition the elements of much good.

D Daman

Chaplain of Hertford County Gaol

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Cranbourne House

28<sup>th</sup> March 1841

My Dear Lord

I have taken the liberty of writing on the subject of a convict of the name of Mary Butcher who was tried before me and sentenced to 7 years transportation. It appears that she was driven to prostitution and the consequent burglary in which she was injured, by her family who are of bad characters. There is no prospect therefore of her permanent reform if she is turned loose upon the world after an imprisonment in this country. Her conduct in prison since her conviction had led to the enclosed letters from the Chaplain of Hertford Gaol and as one of the visiting Magistrates I beg to state that her testimony is strongly corroborated by the Officers of the gaol. My prayers to your Lordship that you will allow the sentence of transportation to be carried into effect and at the same time that you will direct such indulgence to be shewen to her in the Colony as her situation will permit and as may lead to make her reformation permanent.

I have the honour to be your Lordship's humble and obedient servant.

[ ] Salisbury

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(By Keith: There are other notations on the pages but they are very faint and cannot be read)