

Mary Kelly per Majestic 1839 - ID 7959

The Right Honourable Lord John Russell Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Petition of Patrick and Joanna Kelly

Sheweth

That they are the aged and distressed parents of MARY KELLY aged sixteen years who was tried before My Lord Judge at Chester on the 9th instant charged with stealing a silk handkerchief at Stockport and sentenced to seven years transportation.

That the character of this girl had ever stood in the highest estimation both at Manchester, Stockport and elsewhere and that it now appears that she was led out of the paths of Justice by the temptations of MARY CAVANAGH and another female now under the same sentence with their unfortunate child.

This unfortunate child sold books as a support for herself and her father and mother, they having no other means of subsistence but her father's pension of one shilling [] [] loss of vision or nearly blind while serving in the 88th Foot in the late wars - This was a child that was the wonder of the neighbourhood where she resided for attention to her parents and modesty of conduct, and it is now declared that had the greatest part of the neighbourhood thought that so serious a decision was likely to befall her, that they would have borne their own expenses to Chester, to declare her merit upon oath before the Court.

Your Lordships most humble [supplicatits] are heart broken this is the first stain that ever approached their peace - their home was humble and tranquil and the subject of this Petition was its principle [ment] - even the Officers of the Police from Manchester and Stockport regretted her sentence from their knowledge of her conduct while in the market selling her books. The fatal dye is cast but your Petitioners will have hope, that your Lordship will in mercy, give this child of unavoidable misfortune one chance by sending her to the Penitentiary where the special judgement of the severe authority that Asylum will no doubt [recommend] her through your Lordship to Royal Clemency.

Look with compassion upon this case and in duty bound your Lordship's Petitioners will ever pray.

We beg to recommend the prayer of the Petition as we knew the subject of it to be in our general opinion a very proper and well conducted young female. From enquiry we fear that she was led into this commission of the act which she now suffers.

William Smith
John Ramsbottom
Soloman Riley
Peter Morris
Rebecca Smith
Charles Low
Mary Davis
William Phillpots
Henry Thomson
James Graham
William Turner - Clerk

To care of Mr Haywood Halliser
Oldham Street
Manchester
18th August 1838

2nd Petition

The Right Honourable Secretary of State for the Home Department

The humble Petition of Patrick and Joanna Kelly

Sheweth

That they are the parents of MARY KELLY now a convict onboard the MAJESTIC ABERDEEN at Woolwich under the sentence of fourteen years transportation.

That her trial at Chester it was understood in Court that her sentence was seven years transportation but it appears that be a second indictment fourteen years has been the fatal result.

Oh,most Noble Secretary if this case could be enquired into at this remote period, and time was taken to discriminate in the charge laid against their child, it would be seen that she is an innocent sufferer as the whole [] of the case, was the per [] ed work of the other females tried upon the same charge.

Your Lordship's humble Petitioner implores for mercy as their child character was unblemished, and all who knew her who can be safe, as she was considered to be a patern to her age.

Your most humble Petitioners supplicates your Lordships[humble] consideration in giving protection to implicated innocence and let justice³ reconsideration be done in

the eleventh hour.

Cast a look of compassion upon the feelings of your suffering supplicants and grant a mitigation of sentence to an injured sixteen years old, who always bore the highest esteem in our circles doe mild obedience.

Send the child of misfortune to the Penitentiary and give peace to the hearts of the Petitioners.

Grant this wish of mercy most noble Lord Russell and in duty bound your Lordships most humble petitioners will ever pray.

We beg to recommend the prayer of this Petitioner to your Lordship's protection in as much as we believe that the subject of it has been innocently implicated into her present condition.

William Smith

James Thomson

Thomas Toms

William Gibson

Mary Gibson

And another 24 signatures

Care of Mr Haywood Halliser

Oldham Street

Manchester

October 1838

3rd Petition

In Van Diemens Land

The prisoners father prays for her pardon should her conduct have been good.

The Right Honourable Sir George Grey Secretary of State for the Home Department

The humble Petition of Patrick Kelly

Sheweth

That he is the long grieved and seriously distressed father of MARY KELLY who

was tried and convicted at Chester on 9th August 1838 for felony and sentenced to fourteen years transportation.

That from that time to the present day peace has deserted our dwelling as her fond mother would not be comforted.

Your most humble Petitioner would now most humbly implore in the ninth year of his unfortunate child's captivity that you honoured Secretary would in mercy look at this case, upon its own merits and if my child's conduct warrants mercy to take her case into consideration most honoured Baronet what a happy day of renewed peace to this unsettled house would it be to see the arrival of that long lost child.

Honoured Baronet the prayers of an honest poor and humble family are continually united to the Almighty God to put into your heart with the Gentlemen of your Court not to suffer this case to escape consideration with [] mercy.

The Petitioners family had been long in a state of discord in your power Honoured Secretary rests the remedy if merit the duty can meet it. Grant the Petitioner the benefit of enquiring and for which and in duty bound your most humble Petitioner will ever pray.

My daughter is in Van Diemens Land

94 Jude Hill
Manchester
24th April 1847

Van Diemens Land
Hobart Town
Convict Department
21st September 1847

Memorandum

Mr Patrick Kelly is informed that his daughter MARY KELLY who was convicted at Chester in August 1838 and sentenced to fourteen years transportation had received a pardon for the offence for which she was transported on condition that she does not return to England during the term of her sentence.

James []
Registrar

4th Petition

In Van Diemens Land

She is probably married in the colony. I do not [know] this can be investigated.

The Prisoner holds a Conditional Pardon. Her father prays that she may be allowed to return to this country.

To the Right Honourable Lord John Russell - Lord Premier of Great Britain and Ireland

The humble Petition of Patrick Kelly

Sheweth

That is the long mourning father of MARY KELLY who was tried at Chester in 1838 and sentenced to transportation for fourteen years. In consulting the enclosure received from the Colony of Van Diemens Land, it is to be observed that my once unfortunate child has been so far advanced into the favour of her superiors that her present conduct has been marked with the indulgence of freedom, and which your Lordship will see is addressed to Petitioner from the Colony where his child is now announced to be a sojourner and for how long your Lordship most humble.

Petitioner cannot say, but as it is now ten years since her conviction, it would be a gratification to her aged parent if he could once more behold his long lost child. Most Noble Lord cannot it be possible that an aged father at his stage of age could or can hope that your Lordship will meet his prayers for the restoration of a lost child before he shall be called hence and be no more seen upon the earth, as it will be seen by the enclosure that your Lordships most humble supplicants child had merited the approbation of her superiors in captivity.

Right Honoured Lord at that season wherein my unfortunate child was implicated in error, your Lordship was then as now Chief Ruler of the State and imperially held up the most exalted minister of this country.

Most humble Lord let it be considered in mercy that your most humble supplicant has for many years served the Crown in the late wars and is now in a reduced state of age and also infirmity, and as Petitioner's wife expired with a broken heart at the downfall of her child. It is now mostly humbly supplicated that the trial now experienced in her liberty may be taken into consideration by your Lordship and a restoration passed in a return home to her anxious and fond father and family.

My Lord do in mercy take a look of pity upon this solicitation and for which and in duty bound your Lordships most humble Petitioner will ever pray.

94 Jude Hill
Manchester
8th March 1848

MARY KELLY
CHESTER 1838
STEALING A SILK HANKERCHIEF
TRANSPORTATION FOR 14 YEARS
SOURCE - HOME OFFICE CRIMINAL PETITION SERIES 1
SERIES- HO 17
PIECE NUMBER - 131
ITEM NUMBER - ZY 47

MARY KELLY - AGED 17
CHESTER SUMMER ASSIZES AUGUST 1838
STEALING A SILK HANDKERCHIEF
14 YEARS TRANSPORTATION
GAOL REPORT - CHARACTER - BAD
