

Ann Balshaw ID10898 per Sea Queen 1846

Ann Balshaw aged 12

Liverpool Sessions 15th December 1845

Larceny – stealing six pairs of boots and one book

7 years transportation

Received into Millbank prison from Liverpool on 3rd January 1846

Gaol report - convicted before

Series – HO 18

Piece Number 167

The prisoner admits her guilt and prays for mercy on account of her parents.

To The Right Honourable Sir James Graham Her Majesty's Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Petition of Ann Balshaw a prisoner in Millbank Prison

Humbly Sheweth

Sir I surely know how to address such a Gentleman as you but I now take the liberty trusting that you will look into this case that I now put before you. Sir I went about one morning early, to a shop were we frequently delt for to buy a pair of stockings I bought a pair and as I was coming out the man [hushed] me would I stop a short time in the shop I said you must not be long for I have come out without anybody knowing he was not long before he came back I had a small basket with me I put the book in that and was coming out of the shop when the man called me back and asked me to [move] them

boots was I gave them to him and he took me to prison and he asked me were I lived I told him he went to our house and fetched my mother to prison to and me were sent for the Sessions where they acquitted my mother and gave me the sentence I now have and which I so wortherly do deserve for breaking the Law of my Country. I should of known better Sir but I hope and trust that your Lordship will have mercy for I am the first ever brought shame and disgrace on any of the family I implore you and pray that you will have mercy for this which I now have stated is nothing but the truth, I again pray that you will have mercy to one who the least deserves your mercy but I hope and trust that you will for my dear father and mother sakes for I have broken there heart and have broken the Law of my Country and deserve to be punished with the greatest serverity but I hope in your mercy you will let me stop in my country for their sakes.

Your humble servant

Ann Balshaw