

Irish Transportation Records Isabella (Bell) Rooney CRF 1845 R 27

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office, date faded

Written on the side

Hetsbury

W. Hitchens

ats inf^d d^o []

Gaoler inf^d

AWC

20th Aug^t 1845

59 Harcourt St

Sir,

I had the Honor to receive your letter dated the 19th Instant regarding the Petition of Isabella Rooney a Prisoner in the convict depot. I did not receive your letter of the 8th at all accounts. I certainly did not receive any letter of that date having referred to the case of Isabella Rooney.

I beg to state for the Information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenants that I am of opinion the Prisoner is not a proper object of mercy.

This unfortunate woman has hitherto lived in Downpatrick & been a prostitute. She came to the last Newtownards Sessions to prosecute another prostitute for stealing a watch from her; this watch was given to her by a young man probably as remuneration for prostitution herself. The person charged by the prisoner was acquitted, as the Jury would not give any credit to the testimony of the Prisoner. She instead of returning to her own house having remained in the Town of Newtownards, & there in a public House just opposite the Court House, where the sessions were then going on, she robbed a man named Campbell of his purse containing 19^s 6^d. He raised a cry that he had been robbed, the Prisoner had gone out as quickly as she could, but she was brought back, & was then accompanied by a companion of hers, Eliza Madine. At first the purse & money could not be found, but Eliza Madine was observed to thrust her hand down the back of the prisoner, to bring up the purse & put it into her own breast.

A constable was called in, he searched the prisoner, and 5^s dropped down from her person. The purse when taken from Eliza Madine contains 11^d only. The Prisoners have been frequently before the court on similar charges. I am not sure whether she has been even convicted before: but it is extremely difficult to procure convictions of any of these women, (who commit frequent thefts), as the persons plundered are too often in a state of drunkenness, when they are robbed.

When I first pronounced the sentence of the Court, I believed the prisoner was charged with a simple Larceny, but the Crown Solicitor informed me she was charged with stealing from the person of Campbell, & therefore I almost immediately perceived she should be brought back into Court, & I passed the sentence of ten years transportation upon her.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your obed^t servant

[? Jones?]

Richard Pennefather Esqre

Written along the side. Mr Hitchens. Ref dans to AB S.

To

His Excellency the Right Honourable William Heytesbury Lord Lieutenant; General and General Governor of Ireland.

The humble Memorial of Isabella Rooney a prisoner in the Gaol of Downpatrick under Sentence of transportation.

Most humbly Sheweth,

that your Petitioner most respectfully begs leave to state to your Excellency the particulars of her case which are as follows.

Your memorialist is and has been an inhabitant of the Town of Downpatrick from Childhood and was Summoned as a witness down to Newtownard Quarter Sessions on 18 June last & having a walk down a distance of – 18 miles with little food for support and on reaching it was treated to a drink by acquaintance (sic) when the result was that your Petitioner got drunk and committed the unfortunate act of taking a few shillings in silver from a man that was in company with her. Petitioner was taken up and immediately tried and found guilty of the same and in the absence of her acquaintances that distance from her native place no-one was present to give a good Character when His Worship was pleased to pass Sentence of 7 years transportation and at the expiration of three hours afterwards directed that your Petitioner be brought up before him and Sentenced her to 10 years in place of 7 – your Petitioner thought this very strange and presumes that it was owing to no respectable person having at the time been there to give prisoner a good Character.

Your memorialist most respectfully prays that your Excellency would be graciously pleased to take into your humane consideration the recommendation from some of the respectable Inhabitants of this Town and Command a mitigation of Petitioner's Sentence and as in duty bound will ever Pray.

her

Bell or Isabella x Rooney

mark

Downpatrick 1st August 1845

We the undernamed whose names as here subscribed – do Certify that we as inhabitants of Downpatrick has been acquaint with Bell or Isabella Rooney from her Childhood has never knowen her to be guilty of any act injurious to her Character before the present [word blackened] being the only support of three younger [word blackened].

And does most respectfully pray that your Excellency would be graciously pleased to take her case into consideration and command a mitigation of Sentence.

Downpatrick 1st August 1845

Tomas Ferguson []

George Coulter

Wm Nestbury

James Logan

James Bell

John Savage

[Peter] Murphy

John Tate

John Gilmoore

Bert McMilligan

Robert

Joseph Bell

James Laid

Alexander Mc Analy

Richard Do

John Talbot

Envelope stamped DOWN Aug 6 1848

Stamped paid at Down

Isabella Rooney

To
His Excellency
The Lord Lieutenant
Castle
Dublin

Written at side. Mem sent to [] on the 8th August.

Reply not read

H.H.

D 27 1845

Isabella Rooney

Larceny 10 yrs transpⁿ

Report of Assistant Barrister annexed.

Aug 21