

Amelia Langley ID11236 per *Sir Robert Seppings* 1852

Amelia Langley aged 19

Central Criminal Court August 1851

Larceny

7 years transportation

Goal Report – convicted before of felon and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment

Millbank

Series – Ho 18

Piece Number 325

The prisoner's father prays a mitigation of sentence in consideration of the prisoner's youth, good conduct in prison and the distress and the respectable family name.

6th February 1852

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey

Sir

It is with the feelings of great respect and yet of such grief and sorrow that, I (a heart broken parent) presume to approach you.

I would endeavour to touch a tender cord in your kind and sympathizing bosom on behalf of my child – a daughter now

undergoing her sentence of seven years transportation in the Millbank Prison – her name is Amelia Langley.

This daughter is young she has had little or no experience of the world, and she had been led easily into error, by other much older than herself, by parties who knew the risk she ran, but which she herself did not and this for their own gain.

But I grieve still [] to have to admit that it was more than once that this unhappy child was led by the same parties to do that which was not lawful and that unknown to either me or her mother since dowed down by the weight of sorrow for the fault of the unfortunate one, and yet, Sir, the feeling of which she was found guilty was of a trifling character, but sufficient in the eyes of the law to place her where she now is, and to cast a cloud across the brightness of a family's hopes, every other member of which is honest and, industrious and trustworthy as she was, before she got entangled among the vile.

As for myself, I am hardworking man, engaged in a house of business in the City, that of Mr Douglass of No 3 Cary Lane for eight years, I was seven years in the same house with a previous employer, before Mr Douglass succeeded to the business, and at a period still prior to either of these employments I was engaged and continued in the service of Mr Barker of Islington for eleven years, and in addition as still further proof of my steadiness of character I may observe that I have lived continuously in the neighbourhood where I now reside for 22 years where I have endeavoured to bring up my family in a respectable manner.

From the gentlemen and the places alluded to, I can obtain testimonials specifying for my honesty, sobriety and perseverance and attention to the interests of my employers – I mention these facts not for self praise but trusting it might have some effect with you, in regard to the favour I would beg to solicit in this letter:- for it causes me and a hard toiling mother, the partner of my days daily and mighty grief to know that any member of our family had so brought disgrace upon us, [] has foolishly and unreflectingly done any thing by the persuasion of others, that would even appear to detract from our integrity and honest upright course of life.

Dear Sir, this letter is already too long still I must beg your kind indulgence for a few moments longer, I am fully persuaded that were our now reluctant daughter restored to us, she would never be guilty of the like misdemeanour gain, she has, we fondly hope, sense the sad consequences of her errors, she has a strong sense of her unhappy condition and she deeply feels her degradation – how sad it is to be shut out from home to be shut in prison and her heart yearns to embrace once more her dear parents and her fond sisters who would with joy stretch out their longing arms to receive her. Picture yourself Sir, the misery of her family NOW and the happiness of a reunion such as I have described and then ask yourself and your heart shall I not confer that happiness – I have the power.

Oh Sir, pardon a distracted father from thus speaking – forgiving utterance to language which you might consider too free – but it is this favour I would solicit from you not to ask her liberty at once – THAT would indeed be too much – I could not expect it – I could not hope it – but I would

humbly beg of you that in the full kindness of your heart in the plentitude of your power – you would muster all circumstances – order that the period of her confinement be shorted – alas Sir – seven long year, if she must undergo it – it will break her and her parents hearts – Oh let it not be the cause of their deaths – for you can prevent it.

If good conduct while in prison had any influence, I flatter myself, my daughters behaviour will be found satisfactory to you – listen to my prayer and you will, ever have showered on your hear the blessings of haven hourly petitioned for by a heart broken father and mother – Oh if I were only informed that I might hope it would remove a load of sorrow.

I have the honour to remain:

Sir

Your most obedient and most devoted and humble servant.

Edward Langley.

12 South Place

Lower Road

Islington
