

Stamped CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE DUBLIN 44 JUN 20

Gorey 18th June/44

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter enclosing to me the Memorial of **Anne Neil** a Prisoner in the Gaol of the C^o Wexford and requesting that I should acquaint you with the particulars of the Case for the information of the Lord Lieutenant, and whether in my opinion there are any mitigating circumstances which should render the Prisoner a proper object of mercy.

And in reply I beg to state that the Prisoner was indicted at the Quarter Sessions held for the Division of Wexford last January for having on the 27th of October preceding at Wexford feloniously stolen four black silk handkerchiefs of the value of 6^d and the half of another black silk handkerchief the goods of **Sarah Taylor**: and for having at the same time and place feloniously received the same goods onto her possession knowing the same to have been stolen.

I find the Prisoner's trial having proceeded at the before mentioned Quarter Sessions two witnesses were produced in support of the prosecution – **Mary Leary** one of them being examined swore that she was in the service of Sarah Taylor – remembered the 28th of October last, that Police Sargeant Nicholson brought that day four black silk handkerchiefs and the half of a black silk handkerchief into Mrs Taylor's shop, with the mark of the Establishment on them. Witness had seen them the night before – was quite sure that the articles produced by Nicholson and which were exhibited to her on the Trial she had seen the night before at Mrs Taylor's, and being cross examined this Witness swore that the shop mark was on all, and that she would not know them but for the mark: that there was writing on the shop mark by Mrs Taylor: had not seen the articles from the time they had been brought in by Nicholson to the time of the Trial. The mark which was upon the handkerchief when whole, was where half of it was sold retained for the unsold half – that there were eight females employed in the shop and two men - was positive that she saw the articles the night before she saw they were brought into the shop by Nicholson – and that they could not have been sold after she had been there at night but in her statement she did not persist, as she afterwards stated it may be possible they might have been sold.

And the other witness for the prosecution Police Sargeant Nicholson being examined swore that he saw the Prisoner on the 28th of October last at Wexford at two o'clock on that day when she and a man were brought into the Police Barracks on suspicion. That Witness searched the Prisoner in during which, the half handkerchief fell from her, was certain of that, and also that then immediately the remainder of the handkerchiefs fell from her also. That the same marks were on the handkerchiefs at the time they fell from her, that appeared on them at the same time of the Trial. That Witness went into Mrs Taylor's looking for an owner for them, and showed them to Mrs Taylor who appeared very angry, and calling down Miss Leary, Mrs Taylor claimed the articles as her property.

Upon the foregoing evidence the Prisoner, she not having produced any witness in her defence, was found guilty by the Jury of having feloniously received into her possession of the goods knowing them to have been stolen. With that finding I have no reason to be dissatisfied, and therefore and insomuch as the Prisoner had before been convicted of similar offences I concurred with the other members of the Court in sentencing her to be transported for seven years – and I can not now say that I consider there are any circumstances in the Case which should render the Prisoner a proper object of mercy.

I return the Memorial – and I
have the honor to be Sir
your very obedt and humble servant.
Ant^y Hills

Edward Lucas Esq^r &c. &c. [*foot of pages 1 and 4 of 4*]

To His Excellency Earl DeGrey Lord Lieutenant General and
General Governor of Ireland,

The Humble Memorial of **Anne Neill** late of Carlow, now a Prisoner in
the County Gaol of Wexford
Sheweth

That memorialist was convicted and sentenced to seven years transportation at the
last Wexford Quarter Sessions for having stolen shop goods in her possession.

That memorialist is a mother of four fatherless children who are totally depending on
her for their support and should the sentence of transportation be carried into effect they will
be driven to utter ruin and destitution.

That when memorialist received the goods from the person who actually committed
the robbery she was totally unaware that they were stolen or she should not have become
the Receiver of them and should your Excellency be graciously pleased to mitigate her
sentence she shall from & henceforward become a good member of society and that her
character shall be in every respect unimpeachable.

Under these circumstances memorialist trusts her case may be taken into
your Excellency's humane consideration and that your Excellency may be graciously
pleased to mitigate her sentence from transportation to a limited Period of Confinement.

And memorialist as in duty bound will ever Pray
her
Anne **X** Neill
mark

Wexford Gaol
May 20th 1844
Mr Connor 7 June/44 [*crosswise*]

N 5 44

Anne Neill

The law must take its course
Chf
June 21/
1844
Ass Bar ans^d 24th June/44
Gaoler infor^d do
A.W.C.
