

Harcourt St Nov 21st 1844

My Lord

I beg to inform your Lordship that **Catherine Hughes** was tried before me at Birr at the last October Sessions for the King's C^o for stealing a purse a crown piece & 5^s from the person of Hannah Tobin. Having been found guilty was sentenced to 7 years transportation. Hannah Tobin found that she was at the fair of Banagher on 19th September last and that she had the purse picked and that there was a crown piece & 5^s in it in her pocket & that they were taken from her person. Shortly before she missed it she had [had] her Brother 7^s6^d out of it & having put it back then felt a crush against her in the crowd in the street when she first saw her hand and missed it. Constable Hayes came up & asked her did she lose anything. She told him she did & described the purse, went into a House opposite with the Constable & got the purse in a few minutes but the money was not in it. Constable Hayes proved that he had been watching prisoner for 2 hours & saw her several times make attempts to rob pockets & saw her close to Hannah Tobin whom he observed to put down her hand as if she had been robbed went up & asked her. When she informed him she has been robbed he then followed prisoner into a House & saw her rested in a back place on a chair, saw her throw back her hand went over & stooped & found a purse & a 5^s piece. The purse was Identified by Tobin as her property & Pr had in her hand 3^s she also had something in mouth which she swallowed.

I should state that the Magistrates were induced to award so severe a sentence against the P^r from the evidence of the Constable which led them to look upon her as a profitful pickpocket she being a stranger in that part of the County & they [decided?] upon making an example owing to the constant array now appearing at the fairs of Banagher which are frequented by pickpockets from all parts of the County no less than the parties having been tried for similar offences at the last quarter sessions.

I have the honor to be Sir your ob^t Ser^t
[Signed]

[illegible signature crosswise]

[Stamped] CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE OF DUBLIN [faded]

To His Excellency the Earl of Heytesbury Lord Lieutenant General & General
Governor of Ireland

Dublin Castle

We whose names are hereunto subscribed do certify that we have enquired intimately into the circumstances of the case under which **Catherine Hughes** has been convicted at October Sessions 1844. We have enquired personally of a Gentleman to whom she has been known

in this Town for a period over six years, and from the Character she has received and from all the other circumstances of the Case, coupled with her extreme youth, that of seventeen years only. We respectfully approach his excellency the Lord Lieutenant and recommend her highly as a fitting person to whom in extent the Royal Clemency and commutation of Her sentence of seven years Transportation beyond the seas to that of imprisonment in the Kings County Gaol at Tullamore for any period however long as to Your Excellency in your great wisdom and mercy may seem meet.

Dated the 28th day of March 1845

Charles Portland
John Portland

Henry Whiteside
JW Briscow
William Ryan
Patk D Irwin
Joseph [?]
Edward Duggan

[7 signatures illegible]
W Hitchins [crosswise]

To His Excellency the Earl of Heytesbury Lord Lieutenant, Lieutenant General
& General Governor of Ireland

The very Humble Memorial of **Catherine Hughes** late of Aughrim the
County of Roscommon Chapwoman and Merchant

Most Humbly Sheweth:-

That your wretched supplicant stood her trial at the last October Sessions of Birr in year 1844 and was convicted on circumstantial Evidence only and not direct for taking from the person of a woman whose name she neither then & since had Learned. The sum of Eight Shillings St^g in silver: and for this alleged offence your humble Supplicant is now and since October last, in her Majesty's Prison at Tullamore in the King's Co^y, under a Rule of Transportation for seven years beyond the seas, removed for such her offence, even if really guilty from her native land, perhaps for ever torn from the bosoms of all she holds dear an aged Mother, and five orphand Bros and Sister, your Supplicant once their Prop and Stay for maintenance and support, but now their cause of shame, their total ruin.

Your humble Suppl^t most humbly shews that the Evidence of the Prosecutrix was to that effect, namely "that the Pros^x did not know "Pris^f did not see her on the day in "question, the Market or Fair day of "Banaher in K^s Co^y in October last – did "not know her when was bro[ugh]t before Pros^x "for Identification. "On the contrary "believes Pris^f is not the Person that "robbed her.

The next and only other witness is Constable Hayes of the Police and he swears this, "I arrested the Pris^r. "I found a little silk bag in her bosom "and in it were three silver shillings. "the Prisoner offered no resist^{ce}, and at "once told her name, **Catherine Hayes** [*sic*], "it was her proper name she gave me. "She had a Basket with Women's Wear, "for sale. "I made a search in one of "the Rooms on the ground stor[e]y of the "House of Entertainment wherein Pris^r "was stopping during the fair, and "I found another little Bag with 2 shillings "in it behind some sods of Turf and neither "of the Bags were Identified by prosecutrix "and with this Testimony and this "alone, purely on circumstantial "evidence, deprived for ever of her "liberty, a sentence usual awarded "in cases of Manslaughter, Arson, "Burglarys, Homicides with many "crimes of high character; but how "or why: her unhappy doom differs from "all others, your humble supplicant has still to learn, avowedly and most solemnly denying all Participation or any knowledge whatever of the gang of marauders frequenting fairs.

May it therefore your Excellency to hear the humble prayer of your within supplicant and having and bearing in your Excellency Clemency the Characters herewith attached that you will serve and hand mercy on her by commuting her sentence of Transportation for seven years to any period of Imprisonment (in this County) how ever long, and as to your Excellency in your wisdom & mercy may seem meet, and your humble and truly wretched supplicant will ever pray

Catherine Hughes

Tullamore Gaol)
King's County)

Stamped CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE OF DUBLIN

To the Right Honourable Lord Heytesbury Lord Lieutn General & General Governor of Ireland &c.&c.&c.

The Honourable Memorial of **Chathrine Hughs** of Tullamore Gaol King's County

That Memorialist most humbly begs to approach your Excellency and states, that she was Tried upon Circumstantial Evidence & found Guilty and Sentenced to Seven Years Transporation.

That Memorialist most humbly Implores that you will in your barrister clemency mittigate the sentence to that of Confinement more particularly as Memst was the support of Her widowed Mother and five Helpless Hopeless & Truly distressed & destitute Orphants &c &c.

she never more expects to see more and the sinfull distress which her two Brothers & three Sisters may be plunged into perhaps to pine in Languishing dispair & disponding subject all the Horrors of disipointed Hope, where as that if memst was let to support them by her feable Industry they might as in the [Garrison?] & Roman State as in the Example of Quintus who was called from the plow to Command. Memorialist's Brothers might add a fresh, [w]reath of Laurels to your Majesty's brow or that of your "Royal offspring -,, also your Majesty has given Birth to the Royal offspring who one day will sway the Sceptor of England and Consider in your Royal Benevolent Clemency the Love you have toward your Royal Children and although Memorialist is the Daughter of Humble parents they are impregnated with the same paternal affection.

Memorialist implores your Royal Clemency in the sacred name of that God before whom all mortals must appear and that your Justial Crown of outstanding Glory as memorialist will every pray.

Chathrine Hughes

Tullamore Gaol January 1st 1845 Kings County

[5 words illegible]
Hall

Her Majesty Victoria 1st Queen of Great Britain & Ireland
&c.&c.&c.

Whitehall
6 Jan^y 1845

I am directed by Secretary Sir James Graham to transmit to you the enclosed Petition of **Catherine Hughes**, a convict in Tullamore Gaol;

and I am to request you to submit the same to the consideration of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and reacquaint the applicant with the result thereof

I am Sir your most obedient humble servant

[signed]

E Lucas Esq)
&c. &c. &c.)

W Hitchens [crosswise]

Memorialist has frequently been imprisoned that His Excellency cannot interfere. [Initialled] Jan 9/45
[crosswise]
