

Elizabeth Donovan ID7529 per *Lloyds* 1845

Elizabeth Donovan aged 16 years

10 years transportation

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 153

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

The humble Petition of Ellen and John Donovan of No 1 Cition Place,
Portland Street, Clapham Road Surrey

Sheweth

That your Petitioners child Elizabeth Donovan aged 16 years is now
under sentence of transportation for ten years being tried at The Old
Bailey Sessions Court on Monday the 10th March for stealing a child's
cloak and pinafore and a pair of shoes.

That your Petitioners child was acquitted for stealing the cloak and
pinafore and found guilty of stealing the pair of shoes. That to the
surprise of all present she received the very heavy sentence That
your Petitioners are honest and industrious persons without stain or
blot on their characters, and that they are the parents of four
children the eldest of which is the subject of the present Petition.

That their children have been kept regularly at school and from all
contaminating associates. That the annexed signatures will greatly
certify the above statement.

Your Petitioners most humbly and respectfully beg to state that their
child, is of a very weak and childish turn of mind , that she never
associated with any bad company, that she is and has always been a
virtuous and moral child and very different from the generality of

persons under similar punishment. That the few pence she got for the article, she ought oranges, apples and nuts, that being afraid to return home she gave herself up to the Policeman at night and told him all that she had been doing., which shows a great want of a sane and sound state of mind – that your Petitioner did not know where their child was until after she was convicted – that she had no one in the Court to speak for her being afraid to let her parents and friends know where she was. That your Petitioners would have employed proper Council had the least knowledge of the unhappy situation of their child, but being ignorant of what had become of her, they are distracted in mind of their daughters dreadful fate. That the legislative never did contemplate in forming the Law, a child so young and so afflicted should be punished in so severe a manner for so small a crime –except they were disgraced and destitute and incorrigible characters – that His Lordship (the Judge) must have been under the impression that the child was of loose character, and friendless and houseless on account of no person being in the Court to speak for her, and the child herself being overpowered with grief so as to prevent her saying anything in mitigation or giving one explanation of any kind., also his Lordship could not have passed so terrific a sentence that the child has a comfortable but humble home and is not at all the character which would merit such a dreadful sentence . That your Petitioner earnestly implores to have the above statement of facts taken into your most earnest and merciful consideration and that the mercy of the Crown may be extended to their poor unhappy child in any form that your wisdom may be deemed proper and not to have her sent out of the Country, that should your bountiful mercy be so far extended they will on her return to their keep the most arduous and vigilant watch on her actions ever after – that the Almighty God may pour his choicest and greatest blessing on you – and your humble Petitioners as in duty will ever pray.

A Cotton MA – Belgian Chapel

Sarah Austin

Edward Austin

Peter Collins

And 20 other signatures
