

Ellen Cornwall ID C1837EH per *Elizabeth and Henry* 1847

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The Prisoner admits her guilt but states that she and her husband had separated and that his allowance not being paid up she was driven to the commission of the offence to pay for the support of her child.

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To The Right Honourable Sir James Graham her majesty's  
Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Petition of Ellen Cornwall a prisoner in Millbank Prison.

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner is the wife of Frederick Cornwall residing in Birmingham. She owns to her guilt in taking the things that she is charged with but that is it owing to her husbands negligence to her was the cause of her doing so they parted six months before the birth of her second child which is now nine months old when it was two months old. She put it to nurse and went to service her mother done all she could in taking their eldest child entirely off her hands her husband agreed to pay her a certain sum towards the maintenance of their second child but he had not paid a fortnights pay. The woman became impatient for her money your petitioner asked her Mistress for some of her wages to pay the nurse but her Mistress could not give her any money for a few

days. Your Petitioner was tempted to take the articles that she is charged with and pledge them for 4/- and paid the woman that had the care of her child, with the intention to redeem the things when she received her wages but the articles was missed and she was apprehended but finding no duplicate on her and no person see her take them she was discharged and through that left her situation and went some miles off and succeeded in getting into another situation she then wrote a letter to her husband reproaching him with his neglect telling him what distress as well as disgrace he brought her to at the same time requesting him to send the money that he then owed her, your Petitioner told her husband in her letter though she got acquit. She was not happy for she knew that she was guilty and telling him that the duplicates was in a certain place and she could not get them so that it was impossible for her to get the things to convey back any means her husband did not answer her letter. She wrote two more letters to the same effect but received no answer but on the 20<sup>th</sup> March a Policeman came to her situation and charged her secondly with stealing the above articles. She said she knew nothing about them he said there was the duplicates to proved it as well as the letters she wrote to her husband he took her into custody and she was tried and received the above sentence.

Your Petitioner begs for mercy and humbly solicits your kind consideration of her case and your petition will forever pray.

Ellen Cornwall

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Ellen Cornwall aged 22

Warwick Lent Assizes 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1846

Stealing sheets and blankets.

10 years transportation

Gaol report – Convicted before

Received in Millbank Prison from Warwick Gaol on 28<sup>th</sup> April  
1846

Series – HO 18

Piece Number - 171