

Emma George ID11885 per *Tasmania* 1844

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Hertford

6<sup>th</sup> July 1844

Most Honourable Sir,

As the Solicitor concerned to defend two female prisoners EMMA GEORGE aged 18 and EMMA LITTLE aged 21 who were indicted at the Midsummer Hertfordshire Quarter Sessions 1844 for stealing two bottles of wine and some other articles of minor importance the property of their Master Mr Edward Heysham Green of Thrunderbridge Herts, I am induced to call your attention to the circumstances of the case on their behalf. The prisoner by the direction of their Counsel pleaded GUILTY to the offence and threw themselves upon the clemency of the Court. The Marquis of Salisbury (the Chairman) sentenced them to seven years transportation each, but stated *that he should be prepared to recommend the placing of the prisoners in the Penitentiary in order that they might not be sent out of the Country.*

Mr Thomas William Carter of Hertford in whose service EMMA GEORGE had lived 15 months prior to her getting into that of Mr Green (about 4 months ago) proved in Court her previous good character and the late Master and Mistress of the prisoner EMMA LITTLE travelled from London at their own expense to prove her previous good character and Mr Carter afterwards addressed a letter to The Marquis of Salisbury to know whether it would be necessary to present a memorial in support of his Lordships promised recommendation and in reply Mr Carter this day received a letter from his Lordship expressing his regret to find, upon enquiring at the

Secretary of State's Office that by the late Regulations of Prisons there is no longer any penitentiary for female prisoners.

I beg, Honourable Sir, to [ ] you the friends of the two girls in question altho' poor are all respectable people and are almost heartbroken at their unhappy fate so unexpected was the sentence and I do hope that on account of their previous good character and as the Marquis of Salisbury's intention of placing them in the Penitentiary cannot be carried into effect you will be pleased to direct a remission of their sentence in order that they may not be sent out of the Country.

If it is needful for the purpose of recommending their case more fully to your notice, the signatures of a vast number of highly respectable persons in the Towns and Neighbourhood of Hertford and Ware and the recommendation of the Prosecutor can be obtained to a memorial on behalf of the unfortunate persons with whose case I have troubled you with.

I have reason to think that if the marquis of Salisbury had been aware female offenders are not now received into a Penitentiary His Lordship would not have passed so heavy a sentence.

Trusting that I may receive an early and I hope favourable reply.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most humble and obedient servant

N S James.

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London 13<sup>th</sup> July 1844

My Dear Sir

I have the honour to return the memorial which has been sent to me by the desire of Sir James Graham. The case of the prisoners Emma George and Emma Little is as correctly stated that they were indicted at the Quarter Sessions and pleaded guilty, but the Memorialist does not state that they were indicted for four distinct offences to each of which they pleaded guilty.

The [ ] of the depositions led me to the conviction that they had carried on a regular system of plunder for several months. They arrived at their offence by endeavouring to corrupt a young girl into their fellow [ ] and to throw the blame on an old man servant in the family. It is truly stated that their character in their previous situations was excellent and I believe them to be the victims of their seduction of a young man who is the brother of one of the prisoners and the lover of the other. It was stated in Court as a reason for mitigation of their punishment that he was sure to marry her after the sentence had been [ ]. It is in fact true that I implied an intention to apply that they should go to the penitentiary not with a view however to keep them in this country but that they should be sent out of it under the most favourable circumstances.. I can anticipate noting from their [ ] to their families but a continuance of crime. I believe my feeling was that of every member of the Bench who was present. I cannot therefore recommend these prisoners to Sir James Graham for an mitigation of their sentences which would prevent their transportation.

I have the honour to be

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Marquis of Salisbury

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Transport

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

The humble memorial; of the undersigned inhabitants of the Towns of Herford and Ware and the vicinity.

Sheweth

That at the last Midsummer Hertfordshire Sessions two females EMMA LITTLE aged 21 and EMMA GEORGE aged 18 who were indicted for stealing two bottles of wine and some other articles of little value the property of their Master Mr Edward Haysham Green of Thunderbridge Herts and but the direction of their Counsel pleaded guilt to the offence, were sentenced to be transported for seven years, but the Marquis of Salisbury the Chairman of the bench stated that he should be prepared to recommend the placing of the prisoners in the Penitentiary in order that they might not be sent out of the country.

That the prisoners have since been moved to the Penitentiary at Millbank, preparatory to being ordered onboard.

That they have been known to some of your memorialists from their infancy and to others for several years past.

That EMMA LITTLE as a father and mother living at Ware who support themselves and a family of ten children by honest industry, and EMMA GEORGE has long be an orphan her mother having died when she was ten years old and her father four years since but she had respectable relations.

That both prisoners received good characters on their trial and for that reason, and it being their first offence.

Your Memorialists humbly pray that you will be pleased to direct a remission of their sentence in order that they may not be sent out of the country.

And in duty bound will ever pray.

Charles Warren – Glass Dealer

Edward Lockyear

George Pearce

And another 81 signatures.

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Emma George aged 18

Emma Little aged 21

Herts Quarter Sessions July 1844

Stealing 3 bottles of wine and a decanter the property of their  
Master

7 years transportation each

Series – Ho 18

Piece Number - 139

Gaol Report – Former character was good. Communications poor  
but honest. The Chairman said that he should recommend them to  
be detained in the Penitentiary.

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It is stated that they received excellent characters from their former  
employers that the Chairman stated he should recommend their  
removal to the Penitentiary and expressed his regret when her heard  
there was no longer any Penitentiary for Female Prisoners.

Commutation to imprisonment is sought in order that they may not  
be sent abroad.

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Refer to the Chairman who tried these prisoners

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