

Hannah Edwards per Hindostan 1839 - ID 6272

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May it please your Lordship

I whose name is attached to this letter, was the Prosecutor of HANNAH EDWARDS and humbly recommend an investigation of her case, with a view to mitigate the sentence of imprisonment and your Petitioner will ever pray.

SL [Bechrens]

Manchester

27 February 1839

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Stone Street

Manchester

7th March 1839

My Lord,

In handing the enclosed Petitions to your Lordship I take the liberty of informing you that the two gentlemen whose signatures first attached were partners with Lord Brotherton Esq. MP for Salford and who have known and employed the prisoner upwards of fifteen years, the third is Mr Potter the Major and the fourth Mr Callender one of the Aldermen of Manchester on the separate sheet is the Petition of Mr Bechrens the Prosecutor who is of opinion that the sentence is too severe. The writer of this is the [successor] to the business of Mr Dyer and is along with the other parties well known to the Right Honourable C P Thomson and humbly requests your Lordships early investigation.

With great respect

I am

Your Lordships humble servant

George Parr.

The Right Honourable Lord John Russell

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May it please your Lordship;

We the undersigned venture with humility to call the attention of your Lordship to the case of HANNAH EDWARDS now a prisoner in the New Bailey Prison, Salford under the sentence of transportation for seven years and to supplicate your interference in her behalf.

She has been convicted of a crime of receiving stolen property, a crime which we are aware is always severely punished. But we beg to represent to you that there are many distressing and in some measure [ ]ting circumstances in her case she was in business as a packer of Manchester goods when she unfortunately married a second husband who took the direction of the concerned proved a notorious [ ] [ ], spent the proceeds of their trade in goods intemperance and other vices and [ ] reduced her to begging. The necessities of a living for herself and her children and an allowance she made to her husband after separation compelled her to commence business and the only one which her limited means would allow, was that of a dealer in [fents]. On the proceeds of this business she managed to keep herself from absolute want, until her husband began to take every means of [ ]ing her.

He often ordered bailiffs to take portions of her property and dispose of it that he might continue his profligacy and finally took away all that she finally possessed. How far her guilt extends in a [ ] which [ ] the most upright suspicion and a close inspection and which requires the greatest circumspection on the part of those engaged in it to prevent their being deceived and to the manner in which the goods they purchased have been obtained and which she says was the case with her, would we [ ] be left to your Lordship. We submit however to your Lordship, that if guilty, this is the first offence and that the value of the goods is under twenty seven shillings . She is of a respectable family has two children destitute of parental protection or future prospect and is [ ] to many [ ] family, communication and sympathy for her varied and protracted sufferings. [ ] as we are that no crime can be committed without bringing its just retribution we would humbly submit to you Lordship that in our opinion justice has not in this case been tempered with mercy, the highest attribute of our matter and which it cannot be unbecoming or unpardonable in his creatures to imitate even to excess.

Until her marriage to her present husband her conduct and character were irreproachable and since that period her life has been one of unmitigated misery. Believing that your Lordship abounds in the [ ] and the practice of the law which teaches that until ,everyone has forgiven his enemies he must not expect mercy and that he forgives so shall he be forgiven we offer the circumstances ( six words unreadably) you and earnestly supplicate in addition to your ,many acts of sympathizing charity and benevolence that your Lordship will recommend that the clemency of our most beloved Sovereign to excerise in this case.

And your memorialists will as in duty bound every pray for your present and eternal happiness.

William Harvey  
William Taylor  
Thomas Potter  
W R Callender

HANNAH EDWARDS  
LANCASTER 1839  
RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS  
7 YEARS TRANSPORTATION  
SOURCE - HOME OFFICE CRIMINAL PETITIONS - SERIES 1  
SERIES - HO 17  
PIECE NUMBER - 71  
ITEM NUMBER - MZ 25

HANNAH EDWARDS - AGED 44  
LANCASTER QUARTER SESSIONS SALFORD JANUARY 1839  
RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS  
7 YEARS TRANSPORTATION  
GAOL REPORT - CHARACTER INDIFFERENT - IN PRISON BEFORE