

Matilda Mace ID3294 per *Cadet* 1848

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To the Secretary of State for the Home Department

The humble Petition of Matilda Mace late of the Parish of Kidderminster in the County of Worcester aged 14 years convicted at the Midsummer Sessions for the said County with having stolen one pair of stockings for the value of sixpence.

Most humble Sheweth

That your Petitioner is induced through your well known benevolent and gracious disposition to supplicate a share of that clemency which you have been pleased to extend towards objects of compassion.

That your Petitioner's father and mother are in the deepest distress at the unhappy situation of your misguided Petitioner who in an unguarded moment quitted the paths of honesty and virtue and she now feels the most acute [ ] and [ ] sorrow which nothing can remove but a future life of gratitude for your mercy an [ ] appreciation of the [ ] rules of [ ] and good conduct with the utmost endeavour to obliterate the stains of an injured character.

That you Petitioner has been sentenced to 7 years transportation.

That should you in your merciful consideration be pleased to mitigate the sentence now imposed on your Petitioner she will never again violate the Laws of her Country.

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly presume to throw herself on your mercy for a mitigation of the sentence now passed upon her as in your wisdom may deem fit.

And you Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

The mark of Matilda Mace.

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We the undersigned most respectfully recommend the Petitioner to your most gracious clemency:

Leo Meyers

Steven Cook

William Dowe

Thomas Dowe

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To be detained for the present. Let a report of her conduct be sent at the end of the year.

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Application is made for the detention of the prisoner in this country on the grounds that her reformation is more likely to be secured by that course than by actual transportation

Letter to Millbank

24 July 1846 and 6 July 1847

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Kidderminster

6 July 1846

My Lord

Owing to an application made to me of the friends of Elizabeth Mace a girl of 14 years of age who was lately tried at the Worcester Sessions for stealing a pair of stockings in this town, and sentenced to 7 years transportation for the same, I am induced to write this on their behalf earnestly soliciting your Lordships influence if it is possible to have the sentence commuted. They are most desirous she should be sent to some Penitentiary thinking that this would be more likely to reclaim her place in society than sending her from her native country along with the most degraded characters. The unfortunate girl had not doubt been badly disposed for some time, but really she laboured under the greatest possible disadvantage, her own mother having died and her father marrying for his second wife a person who by long

continued ill treatment drove her from her father's house to seek protection elsewhere.

Waiting for the honour of a reply.

I remain

My Lord

Your most humble obedient servant

Charles J M Mottram

Curate of Kidderminster.

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Millbank Prison

25 June 1847

Sir

In conformity with the instructions in your letter dated the 24 July last desiring that the conduct of Matilda Mace might be reported on to the Secretary of State at the end of one year from the time of conviction , we enclose a Report from the Governor upon the character and conduct of this Prisoner by which it appears that she had not behaved well, having been reported ten times for misconduct.

We are

Sir

Your most humble and obedient servants

Whitworth Russell

John Perry

Inspectors of the Prison.

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Millbank Prison

29 June 1847

Matilda Mace aged 16 convicted at the Worcester Sessions on the 29 June 1846 of stealing from the person and after a previous conviction, and sentenced to seven years transportation was received into this Prison on the 10 August 1846.

The Secretary of State having received a report upon the character and conduct of the above named prisoner, I beg to state as follows:

*MATILDA MACE has not behaved well, she having been reported ten times for misconduct.*

[H Groves] Esq.

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Transport

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Matilda Mace aged 16

Worcester Quarter Sessions June 1846

Stealing from the person

7 years transportation

Gaol report – been convicted before.

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 184