

Irish Transportation Records Alice McDermott CRF 1848 Mc26

Written along the side [] 13//5/48

3 Lower Gardiner Street

12th May 1848

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the accompanying memorial on behalf of Alice McDermott, prisoner in the gaol of Dundalk, who was sentenced by me at the last Dundalk sessions to transportation for seven years, and to transmit to you my report thereon for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

Alice McDermott pleaded guilty to a trifling larceny, the larceny of a metal weight – if it had been her first offence, considering that she shewed some contrition by pleading guilty & that she might have been impelled by distress, her sentence would not have exceeded two to three months imprisonment – but as it appeared to be her fourth conviction for larceny, and that therefore lenity had not had a beneficial effect, and as a mitigated punishment, so far as I would judge from the past, was not likely to reclaim; I felt obliged to pass the sentence of transportation for seven years.

I was subsequently informed by the matron of the gaol, in whom from her character I place implicit confidence, that the unfortunate prisoner is connected with well conducted & respectable people of the humble rank – that she is a clever useful servant, but being addicted to the use of ardent spirits, she is liable to misconduct herself when under the effect of drink, or tempted by her passion for the indulgence of her propensity. The matron also informed me that the prisoner was then sensibly alive to the disgrace she had brought upon herself & on her family, & that she had made the most solemn vows to abstain from intoxicating drink & from crime.

Under all the circumstances I am of opinion that it would be a proper case for the interposition of the mercy of the Crown, and that the prayer of the memorial might be safely & properly conceded if reasonable security were given that the prisoner should emigrate, & that she should remain absent from the country for at least five years so that if she should afterwards return there may be sufficient time for a change of habits & of associates.

I have the Honor to be
Your most obed^t serv^t
Robert Andrews
assistant Barrister of Louth

T.N. Redington
Under Secretary
etc etc

Dundalk Gaol
May [] 1848

I beg to state that two Uncles of the prisoner called on me this day and stated they are ready to go Bail [] in the following that the Prisoner will emigrate, remain absent 5 years, when third person came forward for same purpose viz

Matthew McDermott Uncle to Prisoner resides in Dundalk Butcher and Householder Bailer £10

James McDermott resides in Dundalk Butcher and Dealer bailer £20

Thomas Duffy Labourer and Dealer in [] resides in Dundalk undertakes to Prisoners bail in £10

On enquiry I am assured that Math McDermott [] and that the other two are worth the amt. annexed to their names.

I have the Honor to be
Francis Lamb

The Under Secretary

What security can the prisoner give to emigrate and remain absent from the country for the space of five years – *Signature* May 1848

Dundalk Gaol
May 20 1848

Sir

I beg to state that the prisoner Alice McDermott was convicted at the last Dundalk Quarter Sessions April 5th for stealing a 14^{lb} w^t and was sentenced to seven years transportation she having been three times convicted of larceny. I sent for one of her relatives this day and was informed that the sum of three pounds is ready to be lodged to assist in paying the prisoners expenses to America should His Excellency be pleased to permit it, and that a further sum of three pounds will be subscribed by her relatives for said purposes.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most obed servant

Francis Lamb

The Under Secretary

To

His Excellency the Noble Earl of Clarendon

Lord Lieutenant General Governor of Ireland

The Petition of Catherine Martin Dundalk County of Louth (Widow)

Humbly Sheweth

That at the last Quarter Sessions held in Dundalk her daughter Alice McDermott (by a former Husband) was tried for larceny by taking a Weighing Weight of the 14^{lbs} from Mrs Sten in Dundalk to which charge she pleaded guilty, for which the Barrister passed a Sentence of Transportation for Seven Years. Exhaustion and hunger is the only and principal cause of many such particularly for the last three years when Employment for Females were Scarce and Provisions beyond the reach of the Poor to purchase.

Your Petitioner Humbly begs leave to state that then Convicts relatives made up a sum of Three pounds to pay her passage to America if in case your **Excellency** be graciously pleased to direct them allowing so to do, as there she may become a useful Member of Society and useful to herself, and further prevent a careless wound to be Inflicted on five Orphan Females that at her last stage of life she has the support of but whose character was never Stained by the Slightest crime whatever. The sum above stated will be pleased (sic) in the hands of any of your authorities here in Dundalk that you are pleased to appoint, and in the Event of your Excellency not at present being inclined to do so That your Excellency will through Sympathy to a distressed Widow direct such time of confinement on said Convict in the Gaol of Dundalk and then direct her Relatives before her discharge to carry their view as to her Emigration into effect to which Petitioner Humbly Beseeches & Implores and will ever pray.
Catherine Martin

When commuted?

How far can the Governor ascertain the Truth of it?

To His Excellency the Noble Earl of Clarendon
Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland
Dublin Castle

Stamped Paid at Dundalk

Louth
Mc 26 48
Alice McDermott
Larceny – 7 years Trans.

Report of Assistant barrister & Governor of the gaol annexed
may 25th 1848
Commute to two years Imprisonment
[] & orders
May 29/ initialled.

Initialled W H [] 7/6/48

Dundalk Gaol
June 1st 1848

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter addressed to the High Sherriff of this County and dated 25th Ult: stating that His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant has been pleased to commute the sentence passed on Alice McDermott prisoner in this gaol to two years imprisonment from the date thereof.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient servant
Francis Lamb
Gov

The Under Secretary
Castle