

Merrion Square
5th May 1848

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday enclosing by desire of the Lord Lieutenant a memorial on behalf of Mary Orr, and to say for the information of his Excellency, that the prisoner having been convicted of stealing considerable quantity of ribbon from a shop in the City of Londonderry I enquired as I usually do from the proper authorities) as to her character, and was informed that it was extremely bad whereupon the offence being of frequent occurrence I sentenced her to be transported for seven years. I have looked through the names of those who have subscribed her memorial, with whom I am unacquainted with the exception of Mr Ashe who is a very respectable person, but I do not collect that he is acquainted himself with the prisoner's character, and seems to take his information from country people who may have been ignorant of this woman's conduct in the City of Londonderry, the shop from whence the ribbon was stolen was that of the very respectable Mayor I return the memorial and

have the honor to be

Sir

your obedient servant

[signature illegible]

Wm Hitchins May 5th/48 [*sideways*]

T. N. Redington Esq [*foot of page 1 of 3*]

To his Excellency Earl Clarendon, Lord Lieutenant
General, and General Governor of Ireland
The humble Petition of **Mary Orr**,
a Prisoner in the Gaol of Londonderry

Humbly sheweth

That your Petitioner's Father and Mother are old and helpless, your Petitioner herself being nearly Fifty years of age. That your Petitioner is and has been for many years the chief, and in truth the only support her aged Father and Mother have. That your Petitioner has for many years earned her livelihood an[d] supported her Father and Mother by hard and honest Industry, in the following manner, viz: she purchased yarn in the City of Londonderry, brought it home to her residence at Killennon within 3 ½ miles of Londonderry twisted it into packing twine, which she sold to the Merchants & shopkeepers of Londonderry at seven pence per pound, and every day she went into Londonderry, she was employed by almost all the respectable Farmers of the surrounding neighbourhood to purchase goods for them in Londonderry, and they accordingly entrusted your Petitioner with their money, and your Petitioner purchased and brought them back their goods justly and honestly, and she was fairly and sometimes liberally paid by them for her trouble. That your Petitioner with grief and shame acknowledges, that in the month of December last (her little capital money being totally exhausted it at the time) she was guilty of the wicked crime oof stealing eighteen yards of ribbon from the mayor of Derry value 3 shillings that she was tried for the offence before the Honorable Pennefather on the 17th day of March, was

found guilty and sentenced to be transported for seven years – That through your Petitioner is nearly Fifty years of age she never was guilty of a crime before, that it was distress and want of money that drove her to it, not having at the time, what would buy a Breakfast or Dinner, or a Supper for either her Father, her Mother or herself.

That your Petitioner cannot deny, on the contrary she must and does acknowledge the Justice of the sentence pronounced against her by the honorable, Baron Pennefather for the wicked crime of which she has been guilty, but as it has been her first offence, she humbly beseeches, your Excellency to commute her sentence to whatever punishment your Excellency may think proper, but she humbly – most humbly, implores your Excellency not to transport her.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

Mary Orr
Londonderry Gaol
12th April 1848

Signatures

James Allison P [Min.] of Comber
Thomas Parkson
Samuel Laughlin
James Greer
Joseph Alcorn
William Jamison
James Thompson
James Orr
Joseph Pollock

John Adams
Robert Bailey
Alexander Gilfillan
William Mooney
James Lamrick
James Lamrock
Hugh Mille
William Adams
Alexander Gilfillan

A number of the farmers & neighbours of the Petitioner who signed the above petition called on me to say this that they are fully satisfied of the truth of the above Petition & on expressing their reason to think that this Petitioner was a person of hitherto good character

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W.H. [] p. pr & D.L.
City of Londonderry
25th April 1848

Wm Hitchins April 29/48 [*sideways*]

Londonderry
O 8 1848
Mary Orr
Larceny – 10 years Transp.
Report of baron Pennefather is unfavourable
May 6th 1848
Let the Law take its course

initial

Judge & G.G. inf^d
Signature

Wm Hitchins June7/48 [*sideways*]

Killennan 6th June 1848

May it please your Excellency,

Some short time ago My Daughter Mary Orr under Sentence of Transportation for stealing in the shop of his Worship the Mayor of Londonderry a quantity of ribbon value three shillings. Memorialled your Excellency for a reprieve from Transportation to Confinement for whatever time your Excellency thought proper and forwarded to your Excellency attested testaments of her character but nothing has transpired to make known your Excellency's determination and as it has been the first offence she ever committed against the laws of her Country I beg your Excellency will look upon her and ameliorate the Sentence. When I her aged parent make known to you that she has passed fifty years of her lifetime without blot or stain to her Character until the unfortunate event for which she is now doomed to suffer and that she is troubled with a nervous complaint that at times she does not know well what she is doing. She at the time and before the unfortunate event to[took] place was subject from every symptom to a Cancerous Sore breaking out on her cheek which at times tormented her in a very great degree. I her aged parent have to implore your Excellency's humanity may be extended towards her and that you will ameliorate the Sentence from transportation to Confinement for whatever length of time your Excellency may think proper and your Excellency shall have the prayers of me her aged father & family raised up and beyond and may God in his mercy long preserve your Excellency & family in the sincere prayer of your Excellency's Most Humble Servant

John Orr

To His Excellency the Right Honorable
George William Frederick Earl of Clarendon
Lord Lieutenant General and General
Governor of Ireland
Dublin

Written across the bottom

Has the conduct of the prisoner in Gaol justified any supposition that she is labouring occasionally under fit of insanity?

Envelope Stamped Derry

To His Excellency The Right Honorable
George, William, Frederick Earl of
Clarendon Lord Lieutenant General
& General Governor of Ireland.

Written along the side

W. Hitchins 12/6/48

Londonderry Gaol
10th June 1848

Sir

During the time Mary Orr was confined in this Gaol I did not consider her insane nor had she any fits nervous or otherwise.

I conferred with the surgeon of the gaol and he is of opinion that she is not subject to fits of insanity.

I have the honor to be

sir

Your obt sert

Sam^l Kitchen

Gov^r

Londonderry Gaol

T.N. Redington

Dublin Castle