## Transcript for clarity of the petition of Peter Cooney. Copy of original appended.

Peter Couney 2536 Received Portland Prison 7 November 1851 Character since confinement: Conduct Good. Public Works Exemplary. W.C.

To the Right Honourable The Secretary of State for the Home Department. The Humble Petition of Peter Cooney Sheweth

That your Petitioner is a labouring man and was tried before Lord Mackenzie and Lord Ivory at the September Assizes holden in Perth 1850 and convicted as a participant of an assault committed on the person of the prosecutor at Dunfermline in the County of Fifeshire on the 24th day of the preceding June.

That your Petitioner believes the assault arose from a drunken riot, and which collected a very considerable number of person your Petitioner being one, but he took no part in any way in the affray and the prosecutor was a total stranger to him.

That on the day your Petitioner was in custody five persons was introduced into the prison for the purpose of identifying your Petitioner as the person who committed the assault but they all declared that he was not the man, and in the following week two other persons who came for the same purpose declared the same

and in the following month of August two other persons who came to the prison for the same purpose positively state he was not the person.

That your Petitioner's fellow labourers made a collection of £6 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of your Petitioners' defences, and the said sum was entrusted to the care of one Thomas Maclaughlan who absconded with the same to drunken leaving his wife and children charged to the parish.

That your Petitioner being only a labouring man had no means of his own and in consequence of Maclaughlan absconding he was wholly unable to employ counsel and was therefore undefended at his trial as also to produce witnesses to prove his innocence they having to come a distance of forty miles.

That your Petitioner if he had been in possession of means of defraying their expenses could and would have produced John Forman, W Corbet (of Bruce Street), Manas Ellis and Jane Gillespie all of Dunfermline, respectable Housekeepers who were present at the time the prosecutor was assaulted and could have proved that your Petitioner had no share whatever in the assault and they are still also alive and residing at Dunfermline and can prove the facts before stated.

That at the trial one of their lordships remarked to the Jury that the evidence seemed to speak altogether of another man and not your Petitioner.

That your Petitioner has resided 12 months at Dunfermline previous to the assault in question and have a sound character for peaceable and good conduct.

That your Petitioner is entirely innocent of the offences in question and earnestly prays for an investigation of all the circumstances and also that the evidence of four witnesses before referred to may be taken.—

That your Petitioner was in separate confinement at Dunfermline, Millbank, & Pentonville prisons of Twelve months and has been upwards of four months on public works, and can appeal with confidence to the authorities as to his conduct while in prison.

Prayer. Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that you will be pleased to cause an investigation of all the circumstances herewith set forth to be made, and the witnesses at Dunfermline to be examined and as your Petitioner then trusts you will be satisfied as to his innocence of the offence for which he is now suffering that you will cause him to be liberated.

And your Petitioner as is duty bound will ever pray so.

Portland Prison.

17 March 1852

Peter Cooney.

Name and Register to Seter Council 2536 When received into
Portland Prison
Chaparla Lince Thorembe 1831 26 lepten: Set 26 anault Subli baks Exemplay: To the Right Hounable ReSecretary of State for the Home Separticular He Hunder Petition of Peter Cooney. heweth That your Politioner is orlabaning Main and was ticed before Lord Maderific and Lord Long at the Soptember As signs holden in Perth 1850 and convicted as a principal of an officeret conmitted on the person of the prosecutor at Lumpertine in the Country of Refertise on this 24 day of the preceding free. That your Nettlioner Relieves the apault wrose from a drunken not, and which calleded a very counderable mot ofpersons. you lottione heigh one, but he took no part it any way in the offray and the prosecutor was a total stranger to live Hat on the day often your hotetimes was is custody five persons was introduced in to the press. for the purpose of identifying your lettinew as the person who committed the apault. but they all declared that he was not the man, and in the following loved two other persons who came for The same purpose declared the same and in the following mouth openful two other personswho cause to the prison for the same purpose portively state he was not the person. That your Petitioner's fellow labourers reade a collection of the fur free of defraging

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the Twenty sixth day of September One
Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty years, by The
Right Honourable The Lord ellackeurie and
of the Lords Commissioners of Justiciary.

## COURT LAWFULLY FENCED.

INTRAN. Peter bouney, railway labourer, present prisoner in the prison of Dunfermline Pannel

INDICTED and ACCUSED, at the instance of Her Majesty's Advocate, for Her Majesty's interest, for the Crime of

Asault to the Vermanent Injury of the Verson \_\_\_\_\_ in manner mentioned in the Libel raised thereanent; which

in manner mentioned in the Libel raised thereanent; which Libel having been found relevant;—In respect of the

Verdict of Asire against \_\_\_\_\_\_
the Pannel, the said Lord Mackengie and,
Lord I vory DECERNED and ADJUDGED, and
hereby DECERN and ADJUDGE the said Pannel to
be TRANSPORTED beyond Seas, for the period

of Seven years from this date,

And that under the provisions and certifications contained in the Acts of Parliament made thereanent: And ORDAINED and hereby ORDAIN the Pannel to be conveyed to the Prison of Duestermline,; therein to be detained until removed for Transportation in terms of the said Acts.

EXTRACTED by me, one of the Circuit Clerks of Justiciary,

Alexander Stuart