

**Transcription of Petition Letter to The Right Hon. Sir George Grey
(main body of the letter only) dated 19/09/1849 (received 20/09/1849) – Petition No. 1**

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Respectfully trusting that you will pardon this intrusion on your valuable time I beg leave to inclose you a petition on behalf of Samuel Wilcockson a convict in Nottingham County Gaol who was sentenced to fifteen years transportation at the last Summer Assizes.

You will no doubt perceive that the Petition is signed by nearly all the farmers and many respectable tradesmen in the vicinity where the offence was committed and where Wilcockson then resided. You will also have the kindness to observe that the convict previous to the offence in question bore a most excellent character and to use the words of one of the witnesses upon his trial was considered "one of the best hearted fellows in that country". And a general commiseration is felt for him more especially as the population are of opinion that the conviction was pursued from motives of malevolence by the two principle witnefses – Chambers/the Constable and Leivers/the Joiner, both of whom it is notorious bore Wilcockson the utmost ill will. From all that can be learnt there is not

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the least fear that Wilcockson after this severe check will be found an offender in an any respect again. The District in question has not been in the least subject to incendiarism and the extension of clemency in this instance to the culprit would have the most beneficial effect upon the minds of the population by convincing them that the person in power shewed wherever it was safe and practicable a feeling of mercy and regard to Petitions when properly applied and memerously and respectably signed - The Petitioners if incendiarism was practiced are the very chaps who would suffer but they have the upmost confidence in the generosity and good feeling of Wilcockson who bitterly repents his impudence.

I am (illegible word) Sir your most devoted humble servant.

John Bowley
Middle Pavement, Nottingham

19th September 1849