TO SAVE HER MOTHER

Daughter of Chiara Cignarele Is Suing for a Pardon.

Will Personally Present a Petition to Gov. Flower.

Chiara Was Once Sentenced to Death for Murder.

After waiting over six years, the friends of the unfortunate Italian woman, Chiara Cignarele, are about to sue for Executive clemency, and, within a few days, a petition containing several thousand names will be forwarded to Gov. Flower, asking for her pardon. Mrs. Cignarele is now in Auburn Prison.

Outside of the merits of the case itself, and Italians generally think there are reasons for the woman's pardon, clemency will be asked on another ground—on account of her daughter.

When Mrs. Cignarele was first convicted of the murder of her husband she left her only child, a little girl, on the charity of the world. There were no relatives of any kind to care for her, and she was finally placed in St. Vincent's Institution, on Eighty-ninth street. Under the rules of the institution no child is allowed to remain there after reaching her sixteenth year.

Young Rosina Cignarele was sixteen years old in January last, but the authorities in St. Vincent's had not the heart to turn her adrift. Out of charity she has been kept there ever since. The child who remembers nothing but blows and abuse from her father cherishes fond memories of her mother's kindness, and she will plead to the Governor in person for her release when she presents the petition.

The murder for which Chiara Cignarele was convicted was one of the most sensational of the period. It occurred on Oct. 20, 1886. Five years before she had come to America with her husband. She was a frail little woman, and he treated her brutally. Unable to stand this any longer, she left him, and with her little child went to live in Forsyth street. They patched up their differences and lived together again, but only for a time.

On the date mentioned Antonio Cignarele was walking along First avenue, near One Hundred and Tenth street, when his wife stole up behind him and fired two pistol-shots at his back. He fell dead almost instantly. Her arrest followed, and on March 2, 1887, she was arraigned before Recorder Smyth, in General Sessions, charged with murder in the first degree. She pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree, and the plea was accepted.

On March 20, 1887, her new counsel, Lawyer Howe, appeared in court and said his client had pleaded guilty because of her imperfect knowledge of the English language. He asserted her innocence and the Court permitted the withdrawal of the plea. On May 22, in the same year, she was tried for the capital offense, and on May 27 she was convicted. She was sentenced by Recorder Smyth to be hanged July 22, 1887.

On the trial it was charged that Mrs. Cignarele had deserted her husband for Antonio D'Andrea, and that the murder was the result of a conspiracy between the guilty pair. D'Andrea was accused with having bought the pistol and showed the woman how to use it. He was also tried for the murder, but was acquitted.

Mrs. Cignarele's case was appealed to the General Term and the verdict was sustained. Every influence possible was then brought to bear on Gov. Hill, women from all over the State petitioning for her. As a result, the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life.

Among other things, Gov. Hill at that time said:

> Many mitigating circumstances have been shown unnecessary to be here specified, which, while they do not excuse murder, yet nevertheless are proper to be considered, and are entitled to much weight on the appeal for mercy. The peculiar circumstances of her marriage to deceased, her age, her previous good character, and the brutality of her husband, are matters which may well be regarded on an application of this nature. Neither the judge before whom the case was tried, nor the district-Attorney who prosecuted it, oppose the application, but, on the contrary, express hope that the Governor may be enabled to discover grounds which, consistently with the administration of justice, would justify the exercise of clemency vested in the Executive.

The agitation for her full pardon really began about six months ago, and over 10,000 signatures were obtained to a petition to the Governor. These were placed in the hands of Lawyer Frank Keeler. The latter died a few weeks ago and the petition could not afterwards be found. It was then that several prominent Italians set to work all over again and headed by Banker Vincenzo Palumbo, of 193 Mott street, and the Italian Consul, a new petition was made out. This is the way it reads:

> We, the undersigned citizens of the United States of America, do hereby most respectfully request the pardon of Chiara Cignarele, or that the sentence be commuted according to Your Excellency's clemency.
>
> The signers of the above are not all italians. While the names of the latter predominate, there are many others well known in New York on the list. They expect to have fully 10,000 names by about Tuesday next.

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