

Petition of Joseph
Nelson & others for a com-
mutation of the punishment
of Isaac Spencer.

To the Governor and Council of the State of Maine

The undersigned Members of the Legislature from the County of Penobscot respectfully request that the punishment of Isaac C. Spencer who is now under sentence of death may be commuted to imprisonment for life — Your petitioners are moved to make this request because they are of opinion that a distinction ought to be made between the punishment of a crime committed as they believe in this case in the heat of sudden passion, and a crime committed with cool and deliberate malice — They are further moved to request a commutation of his punishment on account of his youth and extreme ignorance and they are of opinion ^{that} the execution of said Spencer for the reasons above stated would not have that effect in deterring crime which is the evident intention of the law —

Joseph Kelsey
Charles Reynolds
Elihu Higgins
Elihu C. Allen
Warren Burr
H. Hamlin