To the Honorable the Genl. Assembly of North Carolina,

The humble petition of Rhoda Bell of the County of Beaufort, sheweth: That she was married on the 9th of August 1821, to Jeconias Bell of said County, — with whom she lived in peace and comparative happiness, till Christmas of the same year. — At Christmas and during the holidays he was in a continued state of the most brutal intoxication — and made several attempts on the life of your petitioner, his wife, — and would have completed his diabolical and murderous intentions, had he not been prevented by others. And your petitioner further sheweth that from Christmas 1821 as before stated to June 1825, without provocation on her part, the said Jeconias, when drunk or sober, generally treated your petitioner with the most wanton indignity and unheard of barbarity — At length, that is to say, in the month of June aforesaid he left his wife, your petitioner and during an absence of more than two years, never informed her of his place of residence. And your petitioner was informed by report that he was dead, and it was generally believed in the vicinity to be a true report. But during the month of August last, the said Jeconias returned into this neighborhood and took up (or more probably renewed a crim-