To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina

The Humble Petition of Ann Mason respectfully sheweth that she is the wife of William H Mason late of the City of Raleigh who from being a respectable tradesman hath become a Bankrupt & fugitive — that her said husband was a tradesman of said city of apparent thriving circumstances, that she was fully impressed with the belief that he was in the way to provide respectably for your Petitioner & his children till in December when in the month of in the year 1816 her said husband left his home, as it afterwards appeared, without any intention again to return, taking with him all the money he could procure — leaving your Petitioner entirely destitute of any provision — that as soon as it was ascertained that the said Mason had gone off his creditors immediately seized upon his property which fell very far short of paying his debts — said Mason is now in confinement for his misconduct. Your Petitioner has visited him & in addition to the misery of seeing her husband & the father of her children in confinement, that too