To the Honble the Members of the Genl Assembly of North Carolina, at Raleigh now setting. The Prayer of the undersigned Petitioners, humbly Sheweth, That the Law of this State as it now stands, fixing the majority of Females to twenty one years before they are capable of conveying real estate; however wise & prudential it may be in the general, has its exceptions in certain cases as well as all other laws & customs; Your Petitioners further humbly sheweth, that they conceive their own case to be one of those exceptions to this Genl law, Wherein Your Petitioner Nancy Bell (late Nancy McArthur) sole Heiress (the only Child) of Alex^r McArthur dec^d, late of Montgomery County, was by the death of her father, became seized & possessed of real estate to a tolerable amount, without any (or if any very little) other property whatever, - This property consists in town lots & some lands in & near the town of Henderson & County aforesaid. That Your Petitioner (the late Nancy McArthur) did, in the month of February last, enter into the State of matrimony with Your Other Petitioner, Charles Bell, - That Your Petitioner Nancy, is now in her Eighteenth year, & her husband Charles, is in his twenty third; And that like most new beginners in life, they are in present want of family necessaries which they cannot well otherwise obtain, but by the sale of a part of the above mentioned real Estate, That there is at this time an opportunity of selling some of this property to advantage, particularly a few town lots, lowly situated, & much sought after, for the purpose of digging a canall, which besides the facility this canal will afford for the passage of Boats, will add greatly to the health of the town in Genl as well as to the worth of the subscribers other lots, by draining the town & its skirts of all stagnant waters &c. - Your Petitioners therefore humbly prayeth, that Your honorable body will take their case into consideration, & pass an act, making valid any conveyances of real estate made by Your Petitioners Jointly, of any such part of the before mentioned property as they may find it most convenient to dispose of & Your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray -

November (5) 1818 Charles Bell
Nancy Bell

The undersigned, Inhabitants of the County of Montgomery do hereby certify to the Honble Members of the Assembly aforesaid, that they are acquainted with the abovenamed Petitioners & their circumstances, & are of opinion, that their Statement in the above Petition is correct, Just & True, & therefore humbly crave of Your honorable body that the prayer of the Petitioners may be granted

James G. Mask
Cor^d Montgomery