To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina; The petition of Mary Hassell of Pertie County most respectfully and humbly sheweth, that about years since she married a man by the name of Benjamin Hassell with whom she lived for some time in the utmost peace & harmony, and by whom she has had one child; but having since that period unfornately & much to be lamented, lost sight by gradual intem=perance of every principle of honor & respect, has betaken to himself as a wife & companion, a negro woman, the slave & lawful property of your petitioner. Conduct so dishonorable & disreputable as this, your petitioner is well convinced is looked upon as disgraceful, and discountenanced by every upright & Cir=tuous member of civil society; and to relieve herself from the odious em=braces of a man so entirely distitute of