The Petition of Elijah Pope of the County of Northampton and State of North Carolina

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

Your Petitioner humbly and respectfully sheweth, that about twenty years since his wife Sally, to whom he had been for several years married, and by whom he had children, without any cause made known to your Petitioner, left his bed and board, and has ever since remained absent from his house. Your Petitioner further saith that the said Sally, as he believes, was induced and seduced away by the persuasions and allurements held out by one Barnabas Bunns of the County aforesaid — and the said Bunns has by her, after she lived separate and apart from your Petitioner, three children. Your Petitioner and all the good people of this county who know any thing of the circumstances, are led to this belief from these facts. 1st. Mr. Bunns was in the constant practice of affording maintenance & support to her and her children born after she lived apart and separate from your Petitioner. 2nd that he, Bunns, by his last Will and Testament made provision for the said Sally during her life: and after her death the property was devised over to the children last mentioned. These facts your Petitioner can establish by credible testimony — Your Petitioner further saith that since the death of the said Bunns, the said Sally continued