To the Honourable the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina. —

The petition of Polly Read wife of Elias Read humbly sheweth that some four or five years ago she intermarried with the said Elias who by your petitioner acquired in virtue of the said marriage a very large personal estate consisting mostly of negro slaves. —

Your petitioner shews that soon after the said marriage instead of the kind or affectionate treatment which as the wife of the said Elias she had the right to expect her husband the said Elias very soon began to exhibit marks of dissatisfaction with your petitioner often telling her that altho she was his wife he had no regard for her & that he never had had any but had married her alone for the property which she brought to him. She shews that after heaping upon her every insult & indignity possible by his language her husband banished your petitioner from his house & placed her at his negro quarter where she was deprived of all the conveniences as well as necessaries of life beyond a bare sufficiency ~~to sufficiency~~ to support her existence — that while at the said negro quarter her provisions were