State of North Carolina

Mecklenburg County } To the Honorable the Members of the General Assembly of N. C.

The Petition of Eliza Simons alias Dowling humbly complaining shewth, that in the year 1820 she intermarried with One Zachias Dowling a Methodist Preacher contrary to the wish of her parents, she being at that time young and incapable of forseeing the consequences attending or resulting from such contracts, that shortly after the consummation of this marriage, she left her father's house, and accompanied her new husband in his itinerant callings, and continued to wander with him in distant parts, for the space of nine months during which time she suffered extremely from hunger, the want of Lodgings, and often from the angry frowns of the man she fondly hoped would have been her kind supporter and protector — that finally from his continued ill treatment and threats she became afraid to continue with him any longer, and returned to her father in the latter end of the Summer of 1821 in a very low state of health, when she remained until the death of her father, which took place in a few months afterwards.

Your petitioner further states that during the last period that your petitioner continued to remain with her father, the said Zachias Dowling in order to bring your petitioner into public contempt and ridicule (well knowing her then sickly state) did, notwithstanding the many acts of friendship and kindness extended to him the said Zachias by your petitioner & her father, advertise her your petitioner in the Public