To the Honble The General Assembly of
The State of North Carolina

The humble Petition of William Durham of the County of Rowan very respectfully sheweth, That your Petitioner is now far advanced in life, the father of a numerous family of small children chiefly daughters, and incapable of rendering him much assistance in procuring the worldly comforts of life, that he has no servants nor slaves to help him, and further, that he has long laboured under a lameness in his right arm by reason of a fracture & dislocation, which lameness increases upon him to such an extent that he is incapable of labouring successfully to procure subsistence for himself & family, in consequence of which misfortune, and the view of approaching old age and still greater infirmity, he prays your honorable Body to grant him the Privilege of holding a lottery for the purpose of facilitating the sale of his property in this State with a view of bettering his condition in purchases in the Western Country; as his land is so situated that he cannot otherwise sell it for its full value at the present time, He therefore intreats your Honble Body to permit him to dispose of his Estate not to the value