

To the Honorable the Sen. Assembly, of the State of Virginia, the  
Memorial of the subscribing females of the county of Augusta humbly  
represents that although to be unexampled, in our beloved State, that females  
should interfere in its political concerns, and altho' we feel all the timidity  
incident to our sex in taking this step, yet we hold our right to do so to  
be unquestionable, and feel ourselves irresistably impelled to the exercise  
of that right by the most potent considerations, and the perilous cir-  
cumstances which surround us. We pretend not to conceal from you,  
our fathers & brethren, our protectors by your intervention with the political  
power of the laws, the fears which agitate our bosoms, and the dangers  
which await us, as revealed to us by recent tragical deeds. Our fears  
we admit, are great; but we do not concede that they are the effects of  
blind & unreflecting cowardice; we do not concede that they spring  
from the superstitious timidity of our sex. Alas! we are indeed timid;  
but we appeal to your manly reason, to your more matured wisdom  
to attest the justice & propriety of our fears, when we call to your re-  
membrance the late slaughter of our sisters & their little ones, in certain  
parts of our land, & the strong probability, that that slaughter was but  
a partial execution of a widely projected scheme of carnage. We know  
not, we cannot know the night, nor the unguarded moment, by day  
or by night, which is pregnant with our destruction, & that of our husbands,  
& brethren, & sisters, & children; but we do know that we are, at every mo-  
ment, expos'd to the means of our own excision & of all that is dear to  
us in life. The bloody monster which threatens us is nam'd & cherish'd  
on our own hearths. O hear our prayer & remove it, ye protectors of  
our persons, ye guardians of our peace!

Tell us out of the labors & hardships we shall endure when  
our bondservants shall be removed from us. They have no terrors for  
us. Those labors & hardships cannot be greater, or so great as those we  
now endure in providing for & ruling the faithful beings who are  
subjected to us. Or were they greater, still they are, in our esteem, less  
than the small dust on the balance compar'd with the burden of our  
fears and our dangers. But what have we to fear from these causes  
more than the females of other countries? Are they of the east, & of the west,  
of England, & of France more "cumbr'd with much sorrow" than we are?



Are they less enlightened or less accomplished? However we may be flattered, we will not be argued out of our senses, & persuaded into a belief which is contradicted by all experience & the testimony of sober facts. Many, very many of our sisters & brothers have fled to other lands from the coils which we experience: and they send us back the evidence of their contentment & prosperity. They lament not their labors & hardships, but exult in their deliverance from servitude to their quondam slaves. And we, too, would fly — we, too, would exult in similar deliverance, were our destiny ~~not~~ otherwise ordered than it is. That destiny is in your hands, and we implore your high agency in ordering it for the best. Do not slight our importunities. Do not disregard our fears. We desire to enjoy our exaltation in the land of our nativity. Our destiny is identified with yours. If we perish, alas! what will become of you & your offspring?

We are no political economists; but our domestic employments, our engagements in rearing up the children of our husbands & brothers, our intimate concern with the intercourse & prosperity of society; we presume, cannot but inform us of the great & elementary principles of that important science. Indeed it is impossible that that science ever can have any other basis than the principles which are constantly developing themselves to us in our domestic relations. What is a nation but a family upon a large scale? Our fears teach us to reflect & reason: and our reflections & reasonings have taught us that the peace of our homes, the welfare of society, the prosperity of future generations call aloud & imperatively for some decisive & efficient measure — and that measure, cannot, we believe, be decisively efficient, or of much benefit if it have not, for its ultimate object, the extinction of slavery from amongst us. Without, therefore, entering upon a detail of facts and arguments, we implore you by the urgency of our fears, by the love we bear you as our fathers & brothers, by our anxieties for the little ones around us, by our estimate of domestic woe, by present danger, by the prospects of the future, by our female virtues, by the patriotism which animates & glows in our bosoms, by our prayers to almighty God, not to let the power with which you are invested lie dormant, but that you would exert it for the deliverance of yourselves, of us, of



the children of the land, of future ages from the direct course  
 which can befall a people. O, signalize your legislation by this  
 mighty deed. This we pray, and in duty bound will ever  
 pray

Mary B Kinney  
 Margaret Beard

Elizabeth Stuart  
 Mary Hanger  
 E. Wilson  
 Hannah W. Wilson  
 Eliza Link 5  
 Mary Link  
 Catharine Hanger  
 Lydia Woodward  
 Mary C. Woodward  
 Rebecca Woodward 10  
 Eleanor Gregory  
 Elizabeth Allen  
 Elizabeth Painter  
 Sarah Patterson  
 Jane C. Patterson 15  
 Elizabeth Davis  
 Rebekah King  
 Margaret Brao  
 Isabella Brown  
 Nancy Brown 20  
 Sarah Brown  
 Sarah Hamilton  
 Eliza Montgomery  
 Sarah Crawford  
 Mary L. Crawford 25  
 Ann Page  
 Julia H. Hill  
 Mary J. Hyde  
 Margaret E. Hyde  
 Rebecca D. Gamble 30

Margaret Patterson  
 Sarah Kern  
 Mary Cunn 35  
 Sarah Crawford  
 Sophia Grant  
 Mary C. Page  
 Elizabeth Gamble  
 Eliza J. Gamble 40  
 Lane Kern  
 Ann Gamble  
 Mary Clarendon  
 Margaret Vanhook  
 Sarah Young 45  
 Margaret E. Young  
 Margaret Young  
 Eliza Shover  
 Mary Stover  
 Eliza Stover 50  
 Mary Ann Stover  
 Elizabeth Stover  
 Margaret B. Stover  
 David Glenn  
 Julia Garrap 55  
 Mary Matcomb  
 Carolina Bayler  
 Nancy White  
 Dorothy Thompson  
 Mary Brinket 60  
 Elizabeth Brinket  
 Mary White



Memorial of the  
Ladies of Augusta to  
the Gen Assembly of  
Virginia praying  
the adoption of some bills  
for the speedy liberation  
of the Slaves from  
the Commonwealth

Signed by 215 Ladies -

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

ref. to select

Comtee

John M. B. W.