

To the Honorable the Congress of the United
States now sitting

The petition and memorial of Ann Alricks of the town
and County of Alexandria in the District of Columbia respectfully sheweth:
That in February 1794 she intermarried with a Mr West Alricks
at that time a merchant in very good business and of respectable
connections. That when your Petitioner was married she was
only fifteen years of age. That she lived with her husband until
September 1797 a period of almost four years when they parted
by mutual consent, having lived very unhappily together, and
have never since lived together. She forbears from all crimination
but four years experience, have evinced the melancholy truth, that
Mr Alricks and herself can never make each other happy, or even
live together. Your Petitioner is left with two infant ^{female} children, without
any means of support for them, or for herself, but what she receives
from the bounty of a very aged widowed mother, whose property
is dependant upon her life, and from the kindness of a sister,
whose power to aid her may not continue long.

That after your Petitioner and her husband
had separated, he remained in this neighbourhood several years,
and always declared his intention to petition the Legislature
of Virginia for a divorce, in which your petitioner would most
cheerfully have joined him, and she has now in her possession
letters, from him to her mother, requesting her aid and concurrence

in such a measure, but your Petitioner further shews, that some
eighteen months or two years ago, he left this part of the Country,
and went she knows not whither, and that he has not been since
heard of.

That your Petitioner being yet possessed of youth and
health, and not destitute of respectable friends and connections,
indulges the hope, that a prudent and discreet conduct, might
enable her to better much her situation, was she freed from those
matrimonial obligations contracted with Mr. Alricks, almost in
her infancy, which have long since become equally embarrassing
and intollerable to them both.

As your Petitioner is a resident of the District of
Columbia, she is advised that ^{it} belongs exclusively to this
honorable body, to grant her the relief she prays for, and though
assembled principally for great national concerns, she respectfully
expresses a hope, that the happiness of an individual, will not
be deemed by you an object unworthy of your attention.

She therefore respectfully solicits your Honors
to take her case into consideration, to release her from those ma-
-trimonial engagements which she has entered into with Mr
West Alricks, and to declare their marriage null and void.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound shall pray &c

Ann Alricks