

To the honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Delegates.

The Petition of Graham Bell of the town of Petersburg—
humbly sheweth—

That your petitioner is the father of a large family, which by the industry and frugality of many years, he has hitherto not only supported, but, as he had fondly flattered himself, had in the decline of life, acquired a competency to secure himself and them from the various distresses of indigence and want.—

That while his prospects were thus fair and flattering, your Petitioners eldest son, whom he had educated with much labor and expence, was taken up on suspicion of having forged a bond, was examined for the imputed offence by Greensville county court, and was by that court ordered to be tried at the ensuing Brunswick district.— His case however being considered bailable, your petitioner became bound for his appearance in the penalty of five hundred — dollars, and at considerable expence, retained counsel to appear in his sons defence on his trial before a jury. At the first day of the next court, your petitioners son, agreeably to his recognizance appeared, and without having been taken into custody remained until the second day; when the grand jury, having found a true bill against him, he absconded.— your petitioner immediately used every effort to overtake and arrest him, in vain.—

The same effort, with the same success, has been lately repeated, altho' your petitioner ^{in person} took a fatiguing journey into North Carolina with the hope of finding and seizing him.

In the mean time your petitioners recognizance has been prosecuted, and a judgment rendered thereupon. This will be soon followed by an execution against your Petitioner's property— and unless this honorable body shall interpose its mercy, the pittance acquired by the sweat and labor of a whole life, will be torn from his grasp, and himself in his old age, with a large family around him, abandoned to misery and want. your petitioner therefore earnestly intreats that by a resolution of the Legislature the penalty of his aforesaid recognizance may be remitted.— And your petitioner as in duty bound will pray &c.—

Graham Bell's acct

Claims

Ref. Dec. 4th - 1805.

Reasonable —

reported

Bill drawn

21st Dec. 1805

Quinn