

Transcription

To the Hon[oura]ble Court of the Co[un]ty
of Alberm[ar]le in North Carolina

Mary Cole humbly shews

That Henry a negro Slave Belonging

to her Husband James Cole, hath by

the iladvice of Sundry fellows absentd

himsel[e] for som time from his m

masters service, and often times

have s[ai]d that several people hath

tould him that he was left free by

his form[e]r master Peterson as by

his last will, there fore your petition[e]r

in the behalfe of her husband James

Cole will knoweds as being [Excr.] to

his last will it is no such thing, and

have often times tould the s[ai]d negro

[Ere? the Ces?] your petitioner understands that

he doth designe to make his address

to this Hon[our]able Court, therefore I humbly

desire that this Court will be please to

cause him the s[ai]d negro to be whipt and

your petitioner will Ever pray

Reflect & Discuss

Through which lenses or perspectives do we read Henry's story?

Consider the motivations Mary might have for this testimony.

Henry is referred to by name only once. Why do you think Mary refers to him by race every other time?

Why would Mary Cole advance this petition in court, instead of her husband James?