

Madison NC March 18<sup>th</sup> 1869

Honour Judge Lougee

Sir

Cinda Bardwell the wife  
of Bardwell (freedman) has just appeared to me to join  
in a petition to your honour, in behalf of her husband  
she is in form was convicted this term of your court before  
your honour for stealing a Turkey, and she likewise  
understands he will have to remain in the County jail till  
fall term for the offence, she likewise repre-  
sented to me, that they are very poor, and she is not able  
to support herself & her four little children, without  
aid of her husband, (I believe the statement true)  
and I will most respectfully ask your honour if the  
severity of which he is convicted, is not too aggravating  
to the honour of the State & her laws can be satisfied  
that such severe punishment would most respectfully  
ask your honour for mercy & clemency in his behalf  
his wife I think has good character, but owing  
to some disease of her neck is not able to do hard  
labour, all the clemency & mercy you can exercise to  
her husband, the wife & children most humbly pray  
that I must humbly petition in his behalf

I am Sir very respectfully your  
most Obedt Serv

J D Watkins