

of Baltimore—Report, that the petition states an intermarriage took place in 1830, soon after the husband disposed of all the personal property acquired by the wife, and immediately left her, and has not since been heard of, and that the house and lot which the petitioner now occupies was acquired from her parents, and prays the legislature to pass an act to prevent the husband from disposing of said real estate, and also that she may be divorced from him. To gratify this prayer, the bill declares that Sarah Block is hereby divorced *a mensa et thoro*, and that Arthur M. Block shall not by virtue of his intermarriage with the said Sarah Block, shall not be authorised to have or claim any right, title, or interest in the estate, real, personal, or mixed of the said Sarah Block, prior to, or to be acquired after the passage of this act. The object of such legislation is to deprive Arthur M. Block of all title to property, that the laws may have vested in him by marriage. It is believed that the title which Arthur M. Block prior to the passage of the proposed act, may have acquired in the wife's property by marriage is vested, and the right thereto is as clearly defined, as property which he may have obtained by his own industry; security to such sort of property it is to be presumed would be conceded to him in common with other citizens of the state, and which he could not be deprived of but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land. On the other hand, if the rights of Arthur M. Block, now proposed to be transferred to his wife, is designed as alimony or maintenance apportioned for the injury done by the husband, neglecting or refusing to make an allowance for the wife's support, it is believed that such a measure would be deemed an exertion of judicial authority, and if so, the act would necessarily be void as the bill of rights declares, "That the legislative, executive and judicial powers of the government ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other." The committee therefore recommend that the bill be so amended as to strike out all that follows the first section, and insert the following section:

Section 2. *And be it enacted*, That the said Arthur M. Block by virtue of his marriage with the said Sarah Block shall not be authorised to have or claim any right, title, or interest in the estate, real, personal, or mixed of the said Sarah Block, that shall be acquired by her after