

I have heretofore explained, that I consider the gentlemen appointed to revise the laws as persons, whom I am bound to employ, to the exclusion of all others, whenever and to such extent as I may think the employment of assistance conducive to the perfection and speedy accomplishment of the work.

Whether and to what extent I shall employ any, I consider a *question resting with myself*, and while desiring to name the *entire* compensation I think it important that the allowance for *parts* which may be executed by others should be subject to adjustment between me and them, beforehand.

I do not desire to press the Executive to do any thing in this case to which they may be reluctant, but I do wish a decision; in order that if I find that I cannot proceed with the work with a fair prospect of advantage both to the public and to myself, I may lose no time in relinquishing this and again striding to regain the ground I have lost in my former occupations.?

*Extract of a letter from Thomas Culbreth Clerk of the Council to Joseph I. Merrick, Esq.*

Dated August 12th 1837.

Yours of the 6th instant to Governor Veazey was received and laid before the Council at its recent meeting.

They were in session but two days, and having much business to transact, could not give your communication as full and mature consideration as its importance requires, before a final decision upon your suggestions. They will meet again on the 17th of October when, they instructed me to inform you, they will decide upon them.

I was confined to my bed at the time of the June session of the Council, when your first communication in relation to the Digest of the Laws was received, and do not know what consideration was then given to the subject. They examined the resolution under which you were appointed, at the recent meeting, and so far as I heard any expression of the impressions made upon their minds, it appeared that they had great doubts of their authority to fix the compensation for the work, before its execution; and all seemed to consider it difficult, if not impossible, to determine beforehand what would be a just and fair compensation for such a work. None of them however, expressed any positive opinion on the subject, and all of them, I am sure, will be pleased to meet your views, and adopt your suggestions, if, upon full consideration they shall be satisfied of the legality and propriety of doing so."