

seemed to require) I have received information from a source highly respectable, and entitled to confidence and credit which has induced me to prolong the time specified for the execution of the said sentence, and to ask of you whether any circumstances of palliation or mitigation were developed or appeared upon the trial, calculated to induce a belief that the constitutional power vested in me of commuting or mitigating the punishment ought to be exerted. - For the purpose of hearing from you in relation to this matter I have deferred the execution of the sentence until Wednesday the sixteenth day of August next. - At the same time that I am sensible of the importance of a strict and rigid administration of criminal justice where guilt is clear and manifest, yet I am desirous of leaning to the side of mercy, where the public interests will receive no detriment. - In the hope of hearing from you as soon as possible. -

I am with great respect

Your obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

Samuel Sprigg

The Honourable

William Bond Martin, a similar one sent to the Honourable  
James B. Robins.

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Council Chamber Annapolis July 19<sup>th</sup> 1820

Dear Sir

In consequence of your communication of the 10<sup>th</sup> Instant, I have caused my warrant for the execution of Jesse Griffith to be respite until Wednesday the sixteenth day of August ensuing. - In the mean time should you be aware of any fact or circumstance which in your judgment ought to be received as a just ground for mitigating the sentence passed upon him by the special Court of Oyer and Terminer of which you were a member, you will be pleased to give timely information thereof to this Department. - Since the intimations in your communication are of a nature so general, it is impossible that I can in my official