

Dear Sir,

Council Chamber

Philadelphia Dec. 2nd 1825

Enclosed is a letter from Christian Mayer Esq. a Consul of His Majesty the King of Württemberg to reside at Baltimore, with his Esq. and the President of the United States recognizing him as such. I do not find any provision made by Law for any act to be performed by the Executive upon such occasions; but I see in looking over the Executive proceedings, that the course heretofore has been to issue a commission and have it published. Whether they has been in all of the Governor's orders or by the Governor and Council I have not ascertained. In the absence of legal direction I presume it is of little consequence, but what authority it is desired. Please give me your direction.

Also enclosed is a letter from McCall the Attorney General upon the subject of the demand from the Governor of Pennsylvania received this evening. I have never had but one opinion upon this subject since I first saw the paper & viz that the demand must be complied with.

My acquaintance with some of Mr Jacobs's family and friends, and particularly the high regard I had for his deceased brother, (one of my earliest and best friends) causes me to feel a lively interest in his behalf, and I should be highly gratified at the success of the application which Mr McCall sanctions your suggestion to the Governor of Pennsylvania to withdraw his demand. But I have no hope from such an application. Mr Jacobs must suffer the full penalty of the laws of Pennsylvania. Ought not your correspondence with the Governor of Pennsylvania and with the Attorney General to be in the hands of the Department?

I entertain little or no doubt, but that the Legislature will receive your Message, though the suggestion I mentioned to you came from a member elect, and a friend of yours. The ground of objection is, that your constitutional term will have expired, and consequently, that you will not at that time be Governor. In the fact upon which the objection is founded I fully concur, but do not think it a sufficient ground to refuse a Message which will not be an operative official act, but only an avowal of official acts and (if you please) suggestions for their continuation. The fact of which it is certainly proper for you to give notice, the latter they might not to refuse from my respectable source.

I have spent the greater part of the last two weeks in overhauling old papers and hunting up and bringing together documents and notes and making a statement of the Arms &c in the hands of the Militia. I have got nearly through with the statement, which I think is as nearly accurate, as it is possible to make it with the irregular and confused materials to which I had recourse. Before I began I had no idea but that I could make the statement in a day, with perfect accuracy, supposing the statement made by Mr. Pinkney in