

grudge having its origin in a fight at a Camp Meeting sometime prior to the
 Commission of the crime - That on the day of the murder, the parties met, I think,
 at Vienna, where another difficulty happened between them, which was, apparently,
 harmoniously settled, that on the same day Grinnum purchased a knife, and
 returning to the place where he had left the deceased assuming a friendly deportment
 until an opportunity was offered him to gratify his revenge, when he deliberately
 inflicted, with the knife he had purchased for the purpose, the mortal wounds
 of which the deceased immediately died. He also stated that Grinnum was a
 rough and uncultivated man, with not more of intelligence than is usually
 possessed by men of his class; and that he was a turbulent and violent person,
 having upon his body several striking marks of the violent scenes through
 which he had passed - Such is the substance of my interview with Mr
 Hicks, according to my best recollection, and my impression is that our
 friend Thriver was present at the conversation - I repeat most positively
 that Love never put his application in commutation upon the ground of
 absence of Malice; but upon the mental weakness of the prisoner, nor have
 I ever until the receipt of your letter, heard any such fact alleged - I further
 repeat that no communication was received by me either before or after
 signing the Warrant from the Court, the prisoners Counsel, or single citizen
 either of Talbot or Dorchester, and, I also, state as a fact of which I had
 information that up to the 17th of December, not the slightest effort had been
 made to memorialize me on the subject - Certainly, had this case been
 of the character described by Mr Love, some one humane person would
 have been found in those Communities to have interposed, besides the Sheriff
 whose disagreeable duty it was to execute the judgment of the law - For these
 reasons, and under the circumstances above narrated, I considered it my
 duty to appoint a day for Grinnums execution - I accordingly signed
 the death Warrant on the 17th of December and enclosed it to the Sheriff
 forwarding to him, at the same time, a private letter, stating that I
 had awaited, as long as I thought it proper to do so, the receipt of the petitions
 which he had informed me would be sent on, but that as no such papers
 had come to hand, I thought it imperative on me to discharge the duty
 which the law imposed on the Executive in such matters - From that day
 until the present, I have never heard, from any quarter, a syllable on
 the subject - I have thus endeavored to place before you all the facts upon
 which my action was based - (You will readily perceive that no issue
 was presented for my decision and hence, that in signing the death Warrant,
 I merely followed the mandate of the law, according to my apprehension,
 therefore, no question of delicacy can possibly arise from a review of the
 case by your Excellency whenever called upon to do so - and although you
 will not fail to discern that my course was the only which could have
 been taken under the circumstances, yet if the prisoner or his friends
 can, at anytime, before the period of execution, satisfy you, that the
 extreme penalty of the law ought not to be inflicted, I should consider
 it your duty to interpose, and I am the last man on earth to raise
 a question of ceremony in a matter involving human life -
 Indeed,