

Council
to Mr. Dox-
ought will
case in
reference
to the prop-
erty of the
litigation
thereon.

New Orleans
Dec. 20th 1852

Dear Sir
Hon. Geo. A. Neal
Sec. of State.

Your favor of 4th Inst. enquiring about the present state
of the McDougald will case, reached us several days ago and
we have only delayed answering it, till the present time, in
the hope, that on to day the Supreme Court would have decided
the cause, as it is, we confidently look for its decision in the
course of the coming two, or three weeks. When decided we will
give you the earliest news of it.

We have already advised you, that the case was argued
before the Supreme Court in June last, and that the Court
took it under advisement, and we believe this simple state-
ment embraces every thing of interest connected with the
progress of the cause, about which you have not been here-
before advised.

We have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt.
Emore King

Report of
H. J. Brent
Esq. in ref-
erence to the
failure to
bring down
to trial in
Washington
County, and
expressing
his opinion
on the pro-
bability of
further leg-
islation.

Baltimore Nov. 30. 1852

Dear Sir
Pursuant to your appointment in the absence of Mr. May,
I was yesterday in Washington County Court, prepared to try
the case of the State vs Robert Swan indicted for the murder of
H. P. Shigg. & now hasten to report to your Excellency, the result
of yesterday's proceedings - At the opening of the Court, the
State was represented by Messrs Harbinc & Gordon the State
Attornies for Washington Allegany Counties of the party
indicted by answering in some six courses - Mr. Harbinc
stated that his honor Judge Perry was disqualified by his
prejudice of being to try this case in Washington County
Court, as an illegality - that Judge Merriek substituted as
Judge in Allegany to try this case was by the act of remov-
ing the cause to another Court functus officio as the State says
claiming so opinion was Judge Merriek also thought - In
consequence of which he then filed in the Cause the written
motion of Judge Merriek to act as Judge in Washington
County Court - that in this State of affairs there was no
Judge to try the accused at this term of Court unless he
would consent to appoint concurrently with the State
a Judge to try the cause, & he therefore for the third time