

or propriety of such an order from the Executive Department in the present instance.

Nothing has been received here which leads me to believe that any portion of the people of your County or elsewhere are dissatisfied with the sentence of the Court in the case of Robert Swift. No excitement, so far as I am informed exists anywhere in relation to the subject, nor have I heard of any threats or intimations, that the officers of the State would be obstructed in the discharge of their official duties. Now such an attempt probable it is believed that a sufficient force could be readily obtained from the attending citizens of the County to sustain its officers in the execution of the sentence of the Court, and in arresting offenders.

The precedent of sending a military force from one section of the State to another, to enforce the execution of the laws is a dangerous one & if established by usage, would (without the exercise of great prudence & discretion) be likely to augment the very evil, it was intended to guard against. It moreover argues and implies a want of confidence in the willingness of the people to sustain & uphold the officers of their own section, in the discharge of their official duties, and should not be resorted to, unless in the opinion of the Executive there are well grounded apprehensions for believing that the enforcement of the law is likely to meet with serious resistance.

The above remarks are applicable to ordinary cases of criminal execution, unattended with any peculiar circumstances. It however as before intimated you have good reason to believe that any serious riot, disturbance, or breaches of the peace are likely to occur, with or without any reference to the execution of Swift, and that it would be difficult for you to procure at once a sufficient force to suppress it, and will so represent to the Department, such additional force will be authorized as the exigency of the occasion may seem to require.

Very Respy,

Yours &c

E. Watkins Sigon

Exeter 3rd April 1855

His Excellency

E. Watkins Sigon

City Hall St.

Our Sheriff has just shown me your letter of the 30th March in which you decline sending any military force to attend as a guard at the execution of Swift for the reason that you have no evidence of any apprehended riot & prevent the execution. There is not one word of probability that there will be any attempt